



A 4-WEEK SERIES FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS ON

EVANGELISM

FROM OUR ANNUAL *TEACHING STRATEGY*

BY TONI MOSLEY AND NIK WALBORN



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- ▶ [Game](#)
- ▶ [Sermon Guide](#)
- ▶ [Small Group Guide](#)
- ▶ [Middle School Small Group Guide](#)
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ABOUT THIS SERIES

With social media, just about anyone can be an "influencer" with the right content, good timing, and a little bit of luck. Invent a new dance, share a funny take, catch the right moment on camera, and you could get millions of views. Some "influencers" mostly just use their platforms to get free stuff, but once in a while, you find someone who uses their platform to talk about things that actually matter. Obviously they didn't have social media back in Jesus' day, but in the Bible, the book of Acts is filled with stories about "influencers" who had important things to say. In this 4-week series, we'll hear their stories, discover that **our lives can pass on the good news**, and learn how to pass on the good news to **unexpected people**, to **our families**, and **with humility**.

THIS SERIES AT A GLANCE

WEEK 1

This week, we'll look at the story of Tabitha, who cared for the needs of others in her community and was raised from the dead by Peter.

- **THE BIG IDEA:** Our lives can pass on the good news.
- **THE BIBLE:** Acts 9:36-43; Mark 13:9-11; Matthew 5:14-16
- **THE BUILDING BLOCKS:** Story, Question, Video, Object Lesson, Music, Reflection, Response, Discussion

WEEK 2

This week, we'll explore why Peter was hesitant to eat with Christians who weren't Jewish and how God changed his mind.

- **THE BIG IDEA:** You can pass on the good news to unexpected people.
- **THE BIBLE:** Acts 10:9-11:18; Luke 7:36-50; I Peter 3:15
- **THE BUILDING BLOCKS:** Response, Activity, Story, Question, Reflection, Discussion

WEEK 3

This week, we'll see how Lydia shared the gospel with her family and how Lois and Eunice passed down their faith to Timothy

- **THE BIG IDEA:** You can pass on the good news to your family.
- **THE BIBLE:** Acts 16:9-15; II Timothy 1:3-5; II Corinthians 5:18-20; I Timothy 4:12
- **THE BUILDING BLOCKS:** Response, Activity, Poll, Story, Question, Discussion

WEEK 4

This week, we'll explore how Paul and Silas shared the gospel before and after they were miraculously freed from prison.

- **THE BIG IDEA:** You can pass on the good news with humility.
- **THE BIBLE:** Acts 16:16-34; I Corinthians 3:6-11, 9:16-23
- **THE BUILDING BLOCKS:** Response, Activity, Story, Prayer, Discussion



We suggest using this series as a launching point for this quarter's Discipleship Activity, **The Pass It On Challenge**. You can find this resource in the discipleship section of your dashboard.

HOW TO PROGRAM FOR THIS SERIES

Outside of your teaching time, we have a few programming ideas to help this series really come to life – everything from how to **design your room**, to which **games to play**, to what **music to play and sing**.

 **ROOM DESIGN**

For this room design, you'll be using imagery from social media to help students think about sharing messages with each other.

First, you'll need a backdrop. There are tons of ways to create a backdrop that you can re-use multiple times each year. Check out [this post](#) for a list of ideas. For this series, we suggest a backdrop made of foam or plywood boards. You can either print the series graphics on paper at a local print shop and glue it to the backdrop, or you can get artistic and do it yourself!

To create the backdrop design yourself, either cover the backdrop in black fabric or paint it black. Once your backdrop is dry, use a projector or stencil to trace the series logo onto the backdrop and paint it with [acrylic paint](#).

Next, grab some [foam board](#) or [coroplast](#) and plenty of paint! On the foam board or coroplast, [paint](#) or print social-media-related icons, like the logos of popular apps (TikTok, Snapchat, Reddit, YouTube, Instagram), reaction icons (hearts, thumbs up), "comment" bubbles, and "share" arrows. When those are dry, hang them from your ceiling using [clear fishing line](#).



GRAPHIC DESIGN

Use the series graphic as a backdrop. Then layer social media logos/icons in front of it, hanging from strings (TikTok logo, snapchat logo, instagram logo, reddit logo, youtube logo, heart icons, like icons, comment icons, "share" arrow icons.

Use this font!

FORMA DJR DISPLAY BOLD

Download this font [here!](#)

And use these colors!



HEX #122E4B
CMYK: 98/81/44/21



HEX #91C1D4
CMYK: 42/11/11/0



HEX #DE594D
CMYK: 8/80/72/1

MUSIC

Here are a few worship songs that tie into this month's theme of the gospel and how it transforms us . . .

- **"Testify"** (Maverick City Worship)
- **"Graves Into Gardens"** (Elevation Worship)
- **"Something New"** (NCC Worship)
- **"My Testimony"** (Elevation Worship)
- **"God of Revival"** (Bethel Music)
- **"Way Maker"** (Mario McKennon)
- **"No Weapon"** (Pat Barrett)
- **"Let the Light In"** (Kari Jobe)
- **"Breathe Miracles"** (Red Rocks Worship)
- **"Mighty to Save"** (Hillsong Worship)

We've added these songs to our [Grow Students \(Volume 5\) Spotify playlist](#) for your personal use only, according to Spotify's [terms and conditions](#). For more information on how to use copyrighted music in your services legally, [read this!](#)

And if you want to sing or sample a non-worship song or two (maybe as an opener, a closer, a bonus song during your program), try some of these . . .

- **"Change the World"** (Derek Minor)
- **"Tell the World"** (Lecrae feat. Mali Music)
- **"Brighter"** (Doe)
- **"Keep Your Eyes Open"** (NEEDTOBREATHE)
- **"Talk About God"** (Jkzn, Young C)
- **"Good News"** (Mandisa)
- **"The Good News"** (Bloc Party)
- **"We Could Be the Ones"** (Ecclesia)

For more fun (and clean) song suggestions, check out all of [our Spotify playlists](#) for your personal use only, according to Spotify's [terms and conditions](#). For more information on how to use copyrighted music in your services legally, [read this!](#)



GAMES by Jeremiah Herring, Tyler Grant & Jordan Floro

If you have a designated time for games before your worship and teaching time, we have a few suggestions for games you can play . . .

- [Roses Are Red](#)
- [Word Tennis](#)
- [Pass It On](#)
- [Pass The Pan](#)

Since this series is all about "passing on" the good news of Jesus, these games will challenge students to share or pass things on too. To get the instructions and graphics for each game, click the links or visit the Games section of your Grow Students dashboard.

HOW TO PREP FOR THIS SERIES

WHAT TO GET

If you want to try all of our suggestions for this series, here's what you'll need to buy, borrow, Google, or dig for in your storage closet . . .

WEEK 1:

- A video [like "This Pizza Place Lets Its Customers Pay It Forward In Slices For the Homeless"](#) (Fast Company)
- Assorted objects like clothing, a microphone or musical instrument, a wrapped gift, sports equipment, books, or kitchen utensils
- The song "[My Testimony](#)" (Elevation Worship)
- The handouts provided in your Week 1 folder
- Pens
- The Pass It On Challenge from the Discipleship section of your dashboard

WEEK 2:

- A large [cork board](#), [dry erase board](#), or section of wall
- [Index cards](#)
- Pens
- The Pass It On Challenge from the Discipleship section of your dashboard

WEEK 3:

- Paper or [index cards](#)
- A few [big bowls](#)
- A few [bird masks](#)
- A [dry erase board](#) or note-taking app
- The Pass It On Challenge from the Discipleship section of your dashboard

WEEK 4:

- [Balloons](#)
- [Tape](#)
- Objects from your storage closet to make an obstacle course
- The handouts provided in your Week 4 folder
- Pens
- The Pass It On Challenge from the Discipleship section of your dashboard

WHAT TO MAKE

WEEK 1:

- Print and cut the handouts provided in your Week 1 folder. Place one under each seat, along with a pen.

WEEK 2:

- Create a large [cork board](#), [dry erase board](#), or section of wall where students can pin or tape their ideas.
- Print and cut more of the handouts provided in your Week 1 folder. Place stacks of them near the board, along with pens.
- Print and cut the handouts provided in your Week 2 folder. Place one under each seat, along with a pen.

WEEK 3:

- For the game Carrier Pigeon Relay, choose a 10-word sentence about whatever you'd like (like, "Don't forget, summer camp is now only ten days away!" or "We can pass on the good news to unexpected people"). Write one word on each piece of paper or index card and place them in the bowls — one bowl (and complete sentence) per team.
- If you're using a note-taking app for your question modules, practice mirroring it to your screen in advance.

WEEK 4:

- Build an obstacle course using items from your church storage closet.
- Print and cut the handouts provided in your Week 4 folder. Place one under each seat, along with a pen.

WHAT TO CUSTOMIZE

You know your students better than we do, so there are probably some things you'd like to change about this series before you start teaching. Here's what you'll need to update if you make changes . . .

- **TEACHING:** Add your own stories, jokes, and any pop culture references that make sense for your group. You can edit each message using the Word documents provided or the [Grow Message Builder](#).
- **SMALL GROUP:** If you make any changes to your teaching, make sure your small group questions reflect those changes. You can edit these using the Word documents provided.
- **APP:** If you make changes to your teaching or small group questions, don't forget to update your content in the [Grow App](#) for your team!
- **GRAPHICS:** We've provided graphics in your [Graphics & Video folder](#) already, but we've also provided a blank slide in case you need to make your own.
- **EMAILS:** Customize and send the [volunteer and family emails](#) we've provided for this series.

WHAT TO COMMUNICATE

To make sure your students, volunteers, and families are in the loop . . .

- **STUDENTS:** Throughout the month, post the [Graphics & Video](#) we've provided on social media, like the Big Idea images and Bumper Video. Post the [One-Minute Sermon Videos](#) we've provided or use the One-Minute Sermon Scripts to film a recap video each week and post it on social media.
- **FAMILIES:** Before you begin teaching this series, send families the [Parent Email](#) we've provided (after you've customized it for your ministry, of course). After each week of the series, post the Big Idea images wherever you talk to families online. You can also copy and paste the social media examples we've included in your [Social Media Posts](#).
- **VOLUNTEERS:** Before you teach each week of this series, send volunteers the weekly [Volunteer Emails](#) we've provided (after you've customized it for your ministry, of course). Before each week of the series, post the Big Idea images wherever you talk to volunteers online. You can also copy and paste the social media posts we've included in your [Social Media Posts](#).

For a more in-depth digital communication strategy, **customize the [Social Media Plan spreadsheet](#)** we've provided. And hey! When you post on social media, **don't forget to use the [#growcurriculum](#) hashtag** to share your ideas and stories with our team and with other churches who are using Grow!

HOW TO HACK THIS SERIES

Every ministry is different. Whether you're teaching middle schoolers, high schoolers, teenagers with special needs, or all three, here's how to hack this series to fit your unique and diverse audience.

HACKS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLERS by Mike Sheley, Porfirio Caldera

REVISE

To make this series more accessible for kids with special needs, here's what to adjust . .

- Middle schoolers are all about online influencers, so **in all four weeks, revise any references to influencers to include TikTok stars and YouTubers that connect with your students.** If you're not sure who they are, ask your students during Week 1 of this series and then research them!
- In Week 2's Draw the Message game, **have volunteers ready to supervise each team.** They'll want to make sure students are playing each round correctly and that no one is cheating by looking at the cards on the bottom of the deck.
- In Weeks 2, 3, and 4, **make sure your conversations don't turn into gossip.** In these weeks, you'll be asking students questions about who they struggle to include, what their families are like, and how they've seen Jesus-followers be not-so-humble. While the questions we've provided don't prompt students to share specific names or potentially embarrassing stories of others, remind your volunteers that any gossip or trash talking that happens needs to be stopped right away.
- In Week 3's Carrier Pigeon Relay, **have volunteers ready to help blow up and tie balloons.** A lot of middle schoolers aren't great at this yet. Clumsy fingers. Tiny lungs. It's hard to be in middle school.

REPLACE

And here are the Building Blocks you may want to swap for something else . . .

- In Week 3, try replacing the question "How can we pass on the good news to our families?" with **a panel of families who respond to this question.** This will take the pressure off of your middle schoolers who might struggle to answer this question and create a cool opportunity to bring real families into the conversation. Oh, but if you want to invite any of your students' families to participate, make sure your students are okay with it first.

REMEMBER

Because your middle schoolers are still developing abstract thinking skills, the stories in the Bible can sometimes be hard for your middle schoolers to imagine. But you can make those stories come to life by acting out or clearly painting a picture as to what is happening. Consider using actors, music, lights, costumes, and pictures to set the scene.

HACKS FOR HIGH SCHOOLERS by Travis Bannon, Jada Price

REVISE

To make this series more accessible for kids with special needs, here's what to adjust . .

- In Week 1, **make the Gifts to Pass On object lesson interactive by inviting students to participate.** Before you begin this series, invite a few of your high schoolers to identify an object that represents one of their gifts or talents. During your object lesson, be sure to display the objects they identified and share how those gifts could be used to pass on the good news.
- In Week 2, **go deeper by focusing on a specific reason Christians might exclude or judge people.** You know the needs of your students best, so if something stands out to you based on your ministry culture, pursue it! Are your students judgmental or exclusionary toward certain sins, types of people, or cultures? Talk about it!
- Because Week 3 focuses on families, **revise this week to better address the specific family situations represented in your ministry.** For example, you might want to focus on different aspects of this message if you know most of your students come from Christian families, or most of your students come from unchurched families, or you have a number of students who are in painful family situations. You may want to add a time of prayer to better address those specific needs.

REPLACE

And here are the Building Blocks you may want to swap for something else . . .

- In Weeks 2, 3, and 4, you may want to **skip the opening games and spend more time in discussion.** The high-school-specific questions we've included in this series could open the door for a lot of rich conversation! If you're worried you'll be pressed for time, those opening activities can easily be cut so you can spend more time in conversation.

REMEMBER

While not every high schooler will take you up on this challenge to share the gospel with others, those who are ready for the challenge may want specific help and coaching. So get ready to get specific! But at the same time, remind your students they don't need to share the good news with perfect words. Help remove the pressure for them.

HACKS FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

by Alyssa Roberts, Sunny Brown

REVISE

To make this series more accessible for kids with special needs, here's what to adjust . . .

- In Week 1, remember to **turn on closed captioning for the YouTube video**. If you have any students with hearing difficulties, they'll need it in order to follow along!
- In Week 2, **add an element of sign language to the Draw the Message game**. In the first round of the game, instead of telling your players the phrase audibly for them to draw, learn it in sign language and sign it to them. Those students will then try to interpret what you've said and write it down. The game can continue from there. This could be a teachable moment to help students see language and communication in a new way, and prompt a conversation about how a person's disabilities might make them feel excluded from church or social situations.
- In Weeks 1, 2, and 4, **provide a buddy to any students who struggle with writing**. Depending on their needs and disabilities, their buddy should be able to either write for them, help simplify the reflection questions for them, or show them simple pictures or emojis to help them formulate a response.

REPLACE

And here are the Building Blocks you may want to swap for something else . . .

- In Week 4, **replace the balloons in the Puffed Up Relay race with something that won't pop** (like tennis balls, stuffed animals, or whatever weird objects you find in your storage closet) if you have students with sensory sensitivities. You also want to **make sure any students with physical disabilities can still participate**. If a student is unable to run in the relay, make sure they are invited to help tape the objects to the runner if they want to participate.

REMEMBER

In Week 2, during the Mission Inclusive reflection time, **remember that students with special needs are often the ones who feel excluded**. As you are leading this conversation, be aware of students who are often left out and careful not to imply everyone in the room is guilty of excluding others.



ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Antoinette H. Mosley, also known as “Miss Toni” to her students, is a native of Jennings, Louisiana, and has over 20 years of youth ministry experience. She resides in Ohio where she is a Youth Mentor Manager and is also the developmental editor of Urban Ministries’ (UMI), Inc. teen Sunday school and Bible Study curriculum. If you would like to chat with Toni, reach out! She would love to connect with you!

Nik Walborn is the Student Ministries Pastor at New Hope Community working with 6th-12th grade students. He has been in youth ministry for 8 years and loves speaking at church/camps, connecting with youth pastors, and developing leadership potential in others. Nik loves seeing students own their faith and be empowered to run the youth group for their peers. If you'd like to chat with Nik reach out!

CONNECT WITH TONI!



CONNECT WITH NIK!



ALONG WITH . . .



SERIES DEVELOPMENT: Toni Mosley, Nik Walborn, Elle Campbell, Brooklyn Lindsey, David Magallanes, Amber Stephens, Stephen Switzer, Candace Williams, Duane Reimer, Bianca Quezada, Steph Whitacre

HACKS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLERS: Mike Sheley, Porfirio Caldera

HACKS FOR HIGH SCHOOLERS: Travis Bannon, Jada Price

HACKS FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS: Alyssa Roberts, Sunny Brown

GAMES: Jeremiah Herring, Tyler Grant, Jordan Floro

ONE-MINUTE SERMONS: David Magallanes, Elle Campbell, Jose Rodriguez, Erica Rodriguez, Vanessa Serrano Cruz, Damean Easter, and the Rescue a Generation team

GRAPHIC DESIGN: Jules Gray, Josh Gosney, Amber Gaddis

LAYOUT DESIGN: Jules Gray, Josh Gosney, Amber Gaddis

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT: Kenny Campbell, Tash McGill, Linda Moon, Ali Anne, Kellee Gentry, Emily Acton, Jada Smith, Jay Logan, Eddie Irvin, Daniel Wallis

DEVOTIONAL FOR VOLUNTEERS



STUDY

Your team wins a championship. You find out there's going to be a really good change happening at work. Your favorite restaurant is coming to your town! When good stuff happens it feels so good to brag it up and pass on the news to everyone who will listen. It's the same with our faith and it's not limited to the students we teach! Your lives **can pass on the good news**. You **can pass on the good news to unexpected people**. You **can pass on the good news to your family**. And what's really cool (and different from bragging about your superior sports team) **you can pass on the good news with humility**. To get ready for this series on evangelism, **spend a few minutes reading the stories you'll be teaching students this month**. As you do, think about what God has taught you (and is still teaching you) through these passages, and how these Big Ideas have been true in your life.

WEEK 1: Our lives can pass on the good news. (Acts 9:36-43; Mark 13:9-11; Matthew 5:14-16)

WEEK 2: You can pass on the good news to unexpected people. (Acts 10:9-11:18; Luke 7:36-50; I Peter 3:15)

WEEK 3: You can pass on the good news to your family. (Acts 16:9-15; II Timothy 1:3-5; II Corinthians 5:18-20; I Timothy 4:12)

WEEK 4: You can pass on the good news with humility. (Acts 16:16-34; I Corinthians 3:6-11, 9:16-23)

PRAY

You already spend a lot of time sharing the Good News, passing it on to students, families, and other leaders. But what if you spent some time looking at the ways your life could pass it on to people you meet every day? Ask God to show you places and environments where you might be able to pass on the Good News to unexpected people, your family, and to do so with humility.

Which passage of Scripture or Big Idea from this month is most relevant to you right now? Spend a few minutes asking God to show you how you've already grown in this area, plus the next step you need to take in order to keep growing.

GROW

How has your life passed **on the good news** recently? There could be a group of **unexpected people** waiting for you to share your life and story. Maybe you are feeling the nudge to **pass on the good news to your family**. Think of someone you can share your experience of Jesus with. Ask God to **give you humility to share!**

So what's your next step? **Whatever your next step is right now, take it. Then help students do the same.**

WEEK 1 SERMON GUIDE



THE BIG IDEA

Our lives can pass on
the good news.

THE BIBLE

Acts 9:36-43; Mark 13:9-11;
Matthew 5:14-16

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

STORY | Talk about a time you were excited to pass on a message.

- Welcome to our new series *Pass It On!* For the next few weeks, we'll be talking about the kinds of messages we tend to pass on to others.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tell a lighthearted story from your own life (or ask a student or volunteer to tell a story) about a time you were excited to pass on a message. You might talk about a piece of really good news, a secret you couldn't keep, a really juicy rumor, or something funny you saw happen. As you share, be sure to talk about what made you want to pass that message along.*

QUESTION | "What kinds of messages do people get excited to pass along?"

- I know I'm not the only one who's ever been excited to pass on a message. **What other kinds of messages do people get excited to pass along?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give a few students a chance to respond. If you have time, ask them to give examples or tell stories of their own.*
- There are all sorts of reasons we pass messages along – maybe because that message is . . .
 - Funny.
 - Dramatic.
 - Shocking.
 - Adorable.
 - Or really good news!

VIDEO | A Clip from “This Pizza Place Lets Its Customers Pay It Forward In Slices For the Homeless” (Fast Company)

- But it’s not just messages that we get excited to pass on to others. Have you ever heard of the idea of “paying it forward?” Maybe you’ve seen someone pay for someone else’s bill at a restaurant, the grocery store, or a drive-through?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *As a teaching tool, play a short clip from a video [like this one](#) (0:15-1:15) of a restaurant that challenges customers to pre-purchase meals for people in need. For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)*
- This pizzeria has taken off because of their pass-it-on mentality. They’ve developed influence in their community, not just because of pizza, but because of the kindness they’re passing on.

QUESTION | “Who’s an influencer you think has done a lot of good for the world?”

- Most of the time, influencers become influencers because of the things they pass along online. Some gained influence by passing on new dances, funny takes, makeup tutorials, or video game streams. But others gained influence by talking about things that really matter.
- **Who’s an influencer you think has done a lot of good for the world?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give a few students a chance to respond.*
- When we hear the word “influencer,” we often think about internet fame, but what if I told you that you had the opportunity to be the kind of influencer who makes an impact even beyond social media?
- You may not own a pizzeria, have a million followers on Twitch, or be one of the more well-known people in your school, but you have some important and world-changing messages to pass on – not just with your words, but with your actions too.

SO WHAT? *Why does it matter to God and to us?*

STORY | Talk about a time you accidentally communicated a message you didn’t intend.

- But sometimes we accidentally pass on the wrong messages, either through our words or our actions. It could be as simple as accidentally giving your friend the wrong date for a party, or it could be something bigger.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tell a story from your own life (or ask a volunteer or student to tell a story) about a time when you accidentally communicated something hurtful, insensitive, or destructive. Maybe someone thought you didn’t care about them because you forgot to return their text, or a friend was hurt by a joke you made, or a misunderstanding led to a big conflict.*
- We’ve all had moments when we sent the wrong message by accident or misinterpreted information by mistake. We all know that sinking feeling you get in your stomach when you realize you’ve messed up. That feeling only gets worse when the message you were supposed to pass on matters a lot.

QUESTION | “What is the good news?”

- If you’re familiar with the story of Jesus, you might know that all Jesus-followers everywhere have been challenged to pass on a very specific message to others. In the Bible, it’s often called “the good news.” Jesus calls us to pass on his good news with our words and our actions.
- But **what is the good news?** What’s the message Jesus invites us to pass on?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give a few students a chance to respond.
- The good news is that God came to earth as a person named Jesus to rescue us from sin and death! Jesus died, but now he’s alive – and through his resurrection from the dead, we can have new life too. That’s good news. That’s what we’re talking about when we say “the gospel.”

SCRIPTURE | Acts 9:36-43

- In the book of Acts (which is in the Bible) there’s a woman named Tabitha. Tabitha had a pretty incredible – and unexpected – pass-it-on experience with the good news of Jesus.
- Before we get to Tabitha, let me tell you about the book of Acts.
 - It was written by one of Jesus’s followers named Luke, who was a doctor.
 - Luke also wrote the gospel of Luke. His gospel tells the stories of Jesus’ life, while Acts tells the stories of Jesus’ followers who went into the world to share the good news.
 - Luke wrote these books as a historian to help combat the false rumors and teachings that were circulating about Jesus. These books were Luke’s way of passing on the good news of Jesus.
- In the book of Acts is where we meet Tabitha.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read Acts 9:36-43.
- Many people believe Tabitha was a widow, which was a difficult thing to be in that time and culture. Women who lost their husbands often found themselves unable to support themselves. But Tabitha not only found a way to support herself, she was committed to helping support others too.
 - Tabitha’s faith moved her to pass on God’s love and the good news by caring for others who were in need. Tabitha chose to pass on the good news of her faith through her generosity.
 - Because of this, Tabitha was loved deeply by those in her community. She developed a lot of influence!
 - So when Tabitha died, Peter walked into a room filled with women who had been impacted by her life and were now mourning her death.
- Peter raised Tabitha from the dead, but then what happened? Tabitha’s pass-it-on mentality didn’t only affect a group of widows. The whole town heard of what God did in and through Tabitha’s life, death, and life again. In fact, the passage says that many believed in the Jesus. Her faith and her pass-it-on lifestyle changed lives for eternity.

SCRIPTURE | Mark 13:9-11

- When Tabitha passed on the good news of Jesus to others, it resulted in changed lives and deep love for Tabitha in her community. But Scripture tells us that sharing the good news of Jesus can sometimes result in us making a few enemies.
 - When the good news of Jesus was first beginning to spread throughout the world, there was a lot of opposition from both religious and government leaders.
 - Even today in some parts of the world, it's illegal to be a follower of Jesus. Passing on the good news can actually wind you up in jail. Depending on the context in which you live, it's not unheard of to face challenges because of your relationship with Jesus – both then and now.
 - But this shouldn't surprise us. Jesus said things could get tough for his followers.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read Mark 13:9-11.*
- Jesus didn't pretend it would always be easy to share the good news of Jesus. But he assures us the Holy Spirit, who is our Teacher, will always give us the right words to say at the right time.
 - And remember, Jesus wasn't a stranger to difficulty. Because of his message, he experienced all kinds of hatred, mockery, imprisonment, and even death. So when Jesus tells us to continue passing on the good news even when it's difficult, he's speaking from personal experience.
 - No matter how difficult, uncomfortable, or even dangerous it can sometimes be to talk about the good news of Jesus, it's worth it. The news that Jesus is alive, and that he can give us new life too, is the best news ever. It's news worth passing on.
- When Tabitha was resurrected from the dead, her second chance at life was a catalyst that led to the good news of Jesus being passed on to others. But she was passing on the gospel long before that.
 - Tabitha had already received new life long before this incident with Peter. Her life began to be transformed the moment she met Jesus.
 - After she met Jesus, Tabitha's everyday life was dedicated to passing on the good news by loving others like Jesus would.
 - Her resurrection from physical death was just one more way God chose to use her life to pass on the good news of Jesus.
- You and I will probably never be resurrected from the dead like Tabitha was, but that's okay. If we've met Jesus, we've already found new life in him. Our lives are already being transformed. We already have a miraculous story to tell. Like Tabitha, **our lives can pass on the good news.**

NOW WHAT? *What does God want us to do about it?*

OBJECT LESSON | Gifts to Pass On

- It's easy to see how we can use our words to pass on the good news of Jesus, but sometimes we forget that our actions can pass on the good news of Jesus too. Like Tabitha, we all have gifts, talents, and resources at our disposal that we can use to pass on the message of Jesus.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before your teaching time, gather a few objects to symbolize a variety of gifts and talents – like clothing (which Tabitha made to care for people in need), a microphone or musical instrument (for music), a wrapped gift (for generosity), sports equipment (for athletics), books (for learning), or kitchen utensils (for cooking, baking, or serving food). Display each of these items as you list each example below.
- Tabitha was skilled at making clothes, so she used her time and talents to make clothing for those in need. This tangible way of loving others gave her influence in her community. Because people trusted and loved her, they were also curious about the Jesus she followed.
- But what about you? How can you use what you have to love others and pass on the good news with your life, like Tabitha did? Maybe you . . .
 - **Love music or are a talented musician.** Maybe you could connect with others over your shared interests or use the music you create to share the good news of Jesus.
 - **Love to give gifts or have more than you need.** You could show others the love of Jesus by living a life of generosity.
 - **Love to play a sport.** You could connect with others through the sports you play and share the good news of Jesus with your teammates.
 - **Love to learn.** You could put together a small group of friends who want to read books or study the Bible together to learn more about who Jesus is.
 - **Love to cook or are looking for a way to serve.** Just like Tabitha shared the good news by caring for others' physical needs, you could feed people who are hungry, maybe by serving food at a local shelter or giving a meal to someone who's having a hard time.
- The point is, passing on the good news of Jesus shouldn't just be a one-time event. It should be part of our everyday lives – something we do regularly through both our actions and our words. Because when sharing the good news is a regular part of our lives, our lives can have a bigger impact.

MUSIC | “My Testimony” (Elevation Worship)

- We're going to take a few minutes to sing (or listen to) a song together. While we do, think about how you could share the good news with others – not just with your words, but with your whole life.
 - What do you have that you could share?
 - How can you use your gifts to serve someone in need?
 - Where do you already have some influence?
 - Who do you know who needs to hear or see the good news of Jesus in action?
 - And what are you going to do about it?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play the song “My Testimony” (Elevation Worship), but make sure you have purchased any licenses required to do so. For more information, [read this!](#) [Here's a link](#) to preview the song for your personal use.

REFLECTION | The Pass It On Board (Week 1)

- Tabitha didn't have much, but that's exactly what made her life so influential.
 - She passed on the good news to others by loving them like Jesus would. Because Tabitha met people's needs, lives were changed by the gospel.
 - Yes, her resurrection was a miracle — but her life demonstrated the miraculous love of Jesus long before Peter raised her from the dead.
- What about you? What needs can you meet? Who can you love with the love of Jesus? How has God gifted you to share the good news of Jesus with others? This week, think about what you can do to live out the gospel, because **our lives can pass on the good news.**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before your teaching time, print and cut the handouts provided in your Week 1 folder. Place one under each seat, along with a pen. Encourage students to write down some specific ways they could serve others and meet needs in their communities. Challenge them to think more about during the week and in discussions with each other. Next week, you'll build on this reflection time.*

RESPONSE | The Pass It On Challenge

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *We suggest using this series as a launching point for this quarter's Discipleship Activity, The Pass It On Challenge. You can find this resource in the discipleship section of your dashboard.*

WEEK 1

SMALL GROUP GUIDE



With social media, just about anyone can be an **influencer** with the right content, good timing, and a little bit of luck. Invent a new dance, share a funny take, catch the right moment on camera, and you could get millions of views. Some **influencers** mostly just use their platforms to get free stuff, but once in a while, you find someone who uses their platform to talk about things that actually matter. Obviously, they didn't have social media back in Jesus' day, but in the Bible, the book of Acts is filled with stories about **influencers** who had important things to say. In this 4-week series, we'll hear their stories, discover that **our lives can pass on the good news**, and learn how to pass on the good news to **unexpected people**, to **our families**, and **with humility**.

THIS WEEK

THE BIG IDEA

Our lives can pass on the good news.

THE BIBLE

Acts 9:36-43; Mark 13:9-11;
Matthew 5:14-16

- **Talk about a time you were excited to pass on a message. Why were you so excited to pass that message along?**
- **Do you think it's more common for people to pass on messages that are positive or negative? Why do you think so?**
- **What are some of the benefits you could get from passing on positive messages, like encouragement, kindness, or good news?**
- **What do we mean when we say the "good news" of Jesus? Why do you think Jesus asks us to pass it on?**
- **Do you know anyone whose life passes on the good news of Jesus like Tabitha's did? Tell us about them!**
- **Why do you think it's important to pass on the good news with our actions and not just our words? Give an example.**
- **What's an example of how someone's actions could hurt their ability to share the gospel with their words? If you ever found yourself in that position, how would you make it right?**
- **Read Matthew 5:14-16. What are some of the ways Jesus-followers can be "light" in the world?**
- **What are some of the gifts God has given you that you could use to pass on the good news? How?**
- **This week, what's one way you can better live out the gospel with your actions? What about with your words?**

WEEK 1

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

for middle schoolers



With social media, just about anyone can be an **influencer** with the right content, good timing, and a little bit of luck. Invent a new dance, share a funny take, catch the right moment on camera, and you could get millions of views. Some **influencers** mostly just use their platforms to get free stuff, but once in a while, you find someone who uses their platform to talk about things that actually matter. Obviously, they didn't have social media back in Jesus' day, but in the Bible, the book of Acts is filled with stories about **influencers** who had important things to say. In this 4-week series, we'll hear their stories, discover that **our lives can pass on the good news**, and learn how to pass on the good news to **unexpected people**, to **our families**, and **with humility**.

THIS WEEK

THE BIG IDEA

Our lives can pass on the good news.

THE BIBLE

Acts 9:36-43; Mark 13:9-11;
Matthew 5:14-16

- **Talk about a time you were excited to pass on a message. Why were you so excited to pass that message along?**
- **What do we mean when we say the “good news” of Jesus? Why do you think Jesus asks us to pass it on?**
- **Do you know anyone whose life passes on the good news of Jesus like Tabitha's did? Tell us about them!**
- **Read Matthew 5:14-16. What are some of the ways Jesus-followers can be “light” in the world?**
- **What are some of the gifts God has given you that you could use to pass on the good news? How?**
- **This week, what's one way you can better live out the gospel with your actions? What about with your words?**

WEEK 1 HYBRID TEACHING GUIDE



THE BIG IDEA

Our lives can pass on the good news.

THE BIBLE

Acts 9:36-43; Mark 13:9-11;
Matthew 5:14-16

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

STORY | Talk about a time you were excited to pass on a message.

- Welcome to our new series *Pass It On!* For the next few weeks, we'll be talking about the kinds of messages we tend to pass on to others.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tell a lighthearted story from your own life (or ask a student or volunteer to tell a story) about a time you were excited to pass on a message. You might talk about a piece of really good news, a secret you couldn't keep, a really juicy rumor, or something funny you saw happen. As you share, be sure to talk about what made you want to pass that message along.*

DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Break for discussion. If you have more than ten students, split into groups so everyone can share. The starred questions are designed for high schoolers, so you may want to skip them if you're working only with middle schoolers.*
 - **Talk about a time you were excited to pass on a message. Why were you so excited to pass that message along?**

QUESTION | "What kinds of messages do people get excited to pass along?"

- I know I'm not the only one who's ever been excited to pass on a message. **What other kinds of messages do people get excited to pass along?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give a few students a chance to respond. If you have time, ask them to give examples or tell stories of their own.*

- There are all sorts of reasons we pass messages along – maybe because that message is . . .
 - Funny.
 - Dramatic.
 - Shocking.
 - Adorable.
 - Or really good news!

VIDEO | A Clip from “This Pizza Place Lets Its Customers Pay It Forward In Slices For the Homeless” (Fast Company)

- But it’s not just messages that we get excited to pass on to others. Have you ever heard of the idea of “paying it forward?” Maybe you’ve seen someone pay for someone else’s bill at a restaurant, the grocery store, or a drive-through?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *As a teaching tool, play a short clip from a video [like this one](#) (0:15-1:15) of a restaurant that challenges customers to pre-purchase meals for people in need. For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)*
- This pizzeria has taken off because of their pass-it-on mentality. They’ve developed influence in their community, not just because of pizza, but because of the kindness they’re passing on.

DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Break for discussion. If you have more than ten students, split into groups so everyone can share. The starred questions are designed for high schoolers, so you may want to skip them if you’re working only with middle schoolers.*
 - ★ **Do you think it’s more common for people to pass on messages that are positive or negative? Why do you think so?**
 - ★ **What are some of the benefits you could get from passing on positive messages, like encouragement, kindness, or good news?**

QUESTION | “Who’s an influencer you think has done a lot of good for the world?”

- Most of the time, influencers become influencers because of the things they pass along online. Some gained influence by passing on new dances, funny takes, makeup tutorials, or video game streams. But others gained influence by talking about things that really matter.
- **Who’s an influencer you think has done a lot of good for the world?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give a few students a chance to respond.*
- When we hear the word “influencer,” we often think about internet fame, but what if I told you that you had the opportunity to be the kind of influencer who makes an impact even beyond social media?
- You may not own a pizzeria, have a million followers on Twitch, or be one of the more well-known people in your school, but you have some important and world-changing messages to pass on – not just with your words, but with your actions too.

SO WHAT? *Why does it matter to God and to us?*

STORY | Talk about a time you accidentally communicated a message you didn't intend.

- But sometimes we accidentally pass on the wrong messages, either through our words or our actions. It could be as simple as accidentally giving your friend the wrong date for a party, or it could be something bigger.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tell a story from your own life (or ask a volunteer or student to tell a story) about a time when you accidentally communicated something hurtful, insensitive, or destructive. Maybe someone thought you didn't care about them because you forgot to return their text, or a friend was hurt by a joke you made, or a misunderstanding led to a big conflict.*
- We've all had moments when we sent the wrong message by accident or misinterpreted information by mistake. We all know that sinking feeling you get in your stomach when you realize you've messed up. That feeling only gets worse when the message you were supposed to pass on matters a lot.

QUESTION | "What is the good news?"

- If you're familiar with the story of Jesus, you might know that all Jesus-followers everywhere have been challenged to pass on a very specific message to others. In the Bible, it's often called "the good news." Jesus calls us to pass on his good news with our words and our actions.
- But **what is the good news?** What's the message Jesus invites us to pass on?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give a few students a chance to respond.*
- The good news is that God came to earth as a person named Jesus to rescue us from sin and death! Jesus died, but now he's alive — and through his resurrection from the dead, we can have new life too. That's good news. That's what we're talking about when we say "the gospel."

SCRIPTURE | Acts 9:36-43

- In the book of Acts (which is in the Bible) there's a woman named Tabitha. Tabitha had a pretty incredible — and unexpected — pass-it-on experience with the good news of Jesus.
- Before we get to Tabitha, let me tell you about the book of Acts.
 - It was written by one of Jesus's followers named Luke, who was a doctor.
 - Luke also wrote the gospel of Luke. His gospel tells the stories of Jesus' life, while Acts tells the stories of Jesus' followers who went into the world to share the good news.
 - Luke wrote these books as a historian to help combat the false rumors and teachings that were circulating about Jesus. These books were Luke's way of passing on the good news of Jesus.
- In the book of Acts is where we meet Tabitha.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read Acts 9:36-43.*

- Many people believe Tabitha was a widow, which was a difficult thing to be in that time and culture. Women who lost their husbands often found themselves unable to support themselves. But Tabitha not only found a way to support herself, she was committed to helping support others too.
 - Tabitha's faith moved her to pass on God's love and the good news by caring for others who were in need. Tabitha chose to pass on the good news of her faith through her generosity.
 - Because of this, Tabitha was loved deeply by those in her community. She developed a lot of influence!
 - So when Tabitha died, Peter walked into a room filled with women who had been impacted by her life and were now mourning her death.
- Peter raised Tabitha from the dead, but then what happened? Tabitha's pass-it-on mentality didn't only affect a group of widows. The whole town heard of what God did in and through Tabitha's life, death, and life again. In fact, the passage says that many believed in the Jesus. Her faith and her pass-it-on lifestyle changed lives for eternity.

DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Break for discussion. If you have more than ten students, split into groups so everyone can share. The starred questions are designed for high schoolers, so you may want to skip them if you're working only with middle schoolers.*
 - **What do you think Jesus asks us to pass on the good news to others?**
 - **Do you know anyone whose life passes on the good news of Jesus like Tabitha's did? Tell us about them!**

SCRIPTURE | Mark 13:9-11

- When Tabitha passed on the good news of Jesus to others, it resulted in changed lives and deep love for Tabitha in her community. But Scripture tells us that sharing the good news of Jesus can sometimes result in us making a few enemies.
 - When the good news of Jesus was first beginning to spread throughout the world, there was a lot of opposition from both religious and government leaders.
 - Even today in some parts of the world, it's illegal to be a follower of Jesus. Passing on the good news can actually wind you up in jail. Depending on the context in which you live, it's not unheard of to face challenges because of your relationship with Jesus — both then and now.
 - But this shouldn't surprise us. Jesus said things could get tough for his followers.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read Mark 13:9-11.*
- Jesus didn't pretend it would always be easy to share the good news of Jesus. But he assures us the Holy Spirit, who is our Teacher, will always give us the right words to say at the right time.
 - And remember, Jesus wasn't a stranger to difficulty. Because of his message, he experienced all kinds of hatred, mockery, imprisonment, and even death. So when Jesus tells us to continue passing on the good news even when it's difficult, he's speaking from personal experience.

- No matter how difficult, uncomfortable, or even dangerous it can sometimes be to talk about the good news of Jesus, it's worth it. The news that Jesus is alive, and that he can give us new life too, is the best news ever. It's news worth passing on.
- When Tabitha was resurrected from the dead, her second chance at life was a catalyst that led to the good news of Jesus being passed on to others. But she was passing on the gospel long before that.
 - Tabitha had already received new life long before this incident with Peter. Her life began to be transformed the moment she met Jesus.
 - After she met Jesus, Tabitha's everyday life was dedicated to passing on the good news by loving others like Jesus would.
 - Her resurrection from physical death was just one more way God chose to use her life to pass on the good news of Jesus.
- You and I will probably never be resurrected from the dead like Tabitha was, but that's okay. If we've met Jesus, we've already found new life in him. Our lives are already being transformed. We already have a miraculous story to tell. Like Tabitha, **our lives can pass on the good news.**

NOW WHAT? *What does God want us to do about it?*

DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Break for discussion. If you have more than ten students, split into groups so everyone can share. The starred questions are designed for high schoolers, so you may want to skip them if you're working only with middle schoolers.*
 - ★ **Why do you think it's important to pass on the good news with our actions and not just our words? Give an example.**
 - ★ **What's an example of how someone's actions could hurt their ability to share the gospel with their words? If you ever found yourself in that position, how would you make it right?**
 - **Read Matthew 5:14-16. What are some of the ways Jesus-followers can be "light" in the world?**

OBJECT LESSON | Gifts to Pass On

- It's easy to see how we can use our words to pass on the good news of Jesus, but sometimes we forget that our actions can pass on the good news of Jesus too. Like Tabitha, we all have gifts, talents, and resources at our disposal that we can use to pass on the message of Jesus.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before your teaching time, gather a few objects to symbolize a variety of gifts and talents – like clothing (which Tabitha made to care for people in need), a microphone or musical instrument (for music), a wrapped gift (for generosity), sports equipment (for athletics), books (for learning), or kitchen utensils (for cooking, baking, or serving food). Display each of these items as you list each example below.*
- Tabitha was skilled at making clothes, so she used her time and talents to make clothing for those in need. This tangible way of loving others gave her influence in her community. Because people trusted and loved her, they were also curious about the Jesus she followed.

- But what about you? How can you use what you have to love others and pass on the good news with your life, like Tabitha did? Maybe you . . .
 - **Love music or are a talented musician.** Maybe you could connect with others over your shared interests or use the music you create to share the good news of Jesus.
 - **Love to give gifts or have more than you need.** You could show others the love of Jesus by living a life of generosity.
 - **Love to play a sport.** You could connect with others through the sports you play and share the good news of Jesus with your teammates.
 - **Love to learn.** You could put together a small group of friends who want to read books or study the Bible together to learn more about who Jesus is.
 - **Love to cook or are looking for a way to serve.** Just like Tabitha shared the good news by caring for others' physical needs, you could feed people who are hungry, maybe by serving food at a local shelter or giving a meal to someone who's having a hard time.
- The point is, passing on the good news of Jesus shouldn't just be a one-time event. It should be part of our everyday lives – something we do regularly through both our actions and our words. Because when sharing the good news is a regular part of our lives, our lives can have a bigger impact.

MUSIC | “My Testimony” (Elevation Worship)

- We're going to take a few minutes to sing (or listen to) a song together. While we do, think about how you could share the good news with others – not just with your words, but with your whole life.
 - What do you have that you could share?
 - How can you use your gifts to serve someone in need?
 - Where do you already have some influence?
 - Who do you know who needs to hear or see the good news of Jesus in action?
 - And what are you going to do about it?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play the song “My Testimony” (Elevation Worship), but make sure you have purchased any licenses required to do so. For more information, [read this!](#) [Here's a link](#) to preview the song for your personal use.*

DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Break for discussion. If you have more than ten students, split into groups so everyone can share. The starred questions are designed for high schoolers, so you may want to skip them if you're working only with middle schoolers.*
 - ✳ **What are some of the gifts God has given you that you could use to pass on the good news? How?**
 - ✳ **This week, what's one way you can better live out the gospel with your actions? What about with your words?**

REFLECTION | The Pass It On Board (Week 1)

- Tabitha didn't have much, but that's exactly what made her life so influential.
 - She passed on the good news to others by loving them like Jesus would. Because Tabitha met people's needs, lives were changed by the gospel.
 - Yes, her resurrection was a miracle – but her life demonstrated the miraculous love of Jesus long before Peter raised her from the dead.
- What about you? What needs can you meet? Who can you love with the love of Jesus? How has God gifted you to share the good news of Jesus with others? This week, think about what you can do to live out the gospel, because **our lives can pass on the good news.**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before your teaching time, print and cut the handouts provided in your Week 1 folder. Place one under each seat, along with a pen. Encourage students to write down some specific ways they could serve others and meet needs in their communities. Challenge them to think more about during the week and in discussions with each other. Next week, you'll build on this reflection time.*

RESPONSE | The Pass It On Challenge

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *We suggest using this series as a launching point for this quarter's Discipleship Activity, The Pass It On Challenge. You can find this resource in the discipleship section of your dashboard.*



WEEK 2 SERMON GUIDE



THE BIG IDEA

We can pass on the good news to unexpected people.

THE BIBLE

Acts 10:9-11:18; Luke 7:36-50;
1 Peter 3:15

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

RESPONSE | The Pass It On Board (Week 2)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before your teaching time, create a large [cork board](#), [dry erase board](#), or section of wall where students can pin or tape their ideas. Print and cut more of the handouts provided in your Week 1 folder. Place stacks of them near the board, along with pens. Before, during, and after your teaching time, ask students to write down some specific ways they could serve others and meet needs in their communities and add it to the board. Encourage them to read other students' ideas as well to see if anyone had similar ideas and might want to collaborate. Next week, you'll challenge students to choose one of those ideas to act on in groups.*

ACTIVITY | Draw the Message

- Welcome back to *Pass It On*, where we're talking about passing on some pretty important messages to others – and how those messages can sometimes get a little jumbled.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this twist on the classic game Telephone, you'll need plenty of [index cards](#) and pens for every player. To play, split your students into groups of 3-10 players. Give each group a stack of index cards and pens for everyone. Bring one student from each group to the side and assign them all an object to draw on their index card, without using any words. After 30 seconds, have them place the index card on the top of their stack (face up) and pass it to the person next to them. That person must study the image, place the card on the bottom of the stack, and write what they think the first player was trying to draw. After 30 seconds, have them place the index card on the top of their stack (face up) and pass it to the person next to them. The third person*

must read what they wrote, place the card on the bottom of the stack, and try to draw what the person before them described. Keep going until everyone has either drawn or written something. Then compare the first and last cards to see how the message changed over time. Be sure to give your students weird drawing assignments, like . . .

- A dinosaur with a bowtie.
- A TikTok dance.
- Your dog eating your homework.
- A zoo where humans are the exhibits and the animals pay to look at them.
- In your everyday life, you probably won't need to pass on cryptic messages about dinosaurs in bowties, but maybe you know what it's like to miscommunicate. Sometimes we . . .
 - Misunderstand each other.
 - Leave out or miss important information.
 - Forget to deliver an important message.
 - Or never get the message someone else was supposed to deliver.

STORY | Talk about a time you were left out of an important announcement.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Tell a story from your own life (or ask a volunteer or student to tell a story) about a time when you felt left out because you didn't receive an invitation, message, or update. Maybe you weren't invited to a party, or showed up somewhere alone because you didn't realize the schedule had changed, or everyone forgot to tell you about a big piece of family news.
- It doesn't feel great to miss out on hearing important news. Depending on the situation, it can feel frustrating, lonely, and hurtful. It can make you feel excluded, even if that wasn't anyone's intention.
- We've all had moments when we felt excluded, right? And we've all noticed when someone else was being excluded, right?
 - Maybe you're the person who often feels overlooked or left out.
 - Maybe you sometimes like excluding certain people because it makes you feel better about yourself.
 - Maybe you've left someone out before — not because you want to be mean, but because you felt shy, were uncertain how they would respond to your invitation, or knew someone else in your friend group didn't want them there.
- Today, we're going to keep talking about some important messages Jesus invites us to pass on to others. But as we do, think about these questions:
 - Who do you have a hard time including in your circle of friends?
 - Have you ever left anyone out because you had a disagreement with them?
 - And how might people sometimes feel excluded by followers of Jesus?

SO WHAT? *Why does it matter to God and to us?*

SCRIPTURE | Acts 10:9-11:18

- You might think feeling left out or excluded is something only young people have to deal with. But the truth is, we all have the tendency to feel left out and to leave others out – sometimes intentionally, and sometimes not. Even the earliest followers of Jesus struggled with this!
- Like we said last week, Jesus gave all of his followers a challenge to share the “good news” with everyone.
 - The “good news” is that Jesus came to rescue us from sin and death and give us new life in him.
 - That good news is worth spreading! That’s why Jesus told us to share it everywhere, all over the world. Because Jesus’ love and grace has always been for everyone. He wants everyone to be included.
 - But when people first started following Jesus, this message got a little lost.
- Today I want to introduce you to the apostle Peter. Some people viewed him as the leader of Jesus’s inner circle – Jesus’ closest friends and followers.
 - Peter was the first disciple to truly recognize and say out loud who Jesus was.
 - He was one of the first disciples to discover Jesus had risen from the dead.
 - He’s one of the most important leaders of the early church.
 - Once, when he preached, thousands of people came to know Jesus for the first time!
- But at some point, Peter got a little confused about Jesus’ good news. Instead of sharing it with everyone, he mostly just shared it with people who were like him – Jewish. That is, until God called him out. Here’s how Luke, the author of the book of Acts, describes what happened . . .
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read or summarize Acts 10:9-11:18, reading key verses like 10:34-42 and 11:17-18.*
- This might sound like a weird story about sheets and animals falling out of the sky, but here’s the point: God told Peter in a dream that the good news of Jesus wasn’t simply for Jewish people – it was for all people!
 - Peter grew up Jewish, just like Jesus did. If you were Jewish, there were a lot of Jewish laws you were supposed to follow in order to be “pure” or “clean” before God. A lot of those laws had to do with food.
 - Jewish people didn’t eat certain foods out of respect for God, but non-Jewish people (called Gentiles) did eat those foods and saw nothing wrong with it. But this made things difficult when Jewish and non-Jewish people tried to hang out. Dinners were tense, so Jewish Christians like Peter simply didn’t eat with non-Jewish Christians.
 - But, as God showed Peter, the Jewish followers of Jesus were excluding a whole group of people who were important to God!
- God didn’t tell Peter he was wrong for wanting to respect God with his religious practices. Instead, God was letting him know that people hearing the good news of Jesus was more important than Peter’s religious customs.

- This message would have been pretty unexpected to Peter. After all, he thought he'd been doing what pleased God! Even he had to be reminded that the good news of Jesus is meant for everyone — even people we might not expect.

SCRIPTURE | Luke 7:36-50

- This shouldn't surprise us though. Jesus made it a habit to include unexpected people all the time. Instead of hanging out with religious people, powerful people, or wealthy people, Jesus chose to focus his time on . . .
 - Sick people.
 - Poor people.
 - Marginalized people.
 - Sinful people.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read or summarize Luke 7:36-50.*
- This woman didn't have a great reputation in her community, yet she recognized who Jesus was and wanted to honor him with what she had — her hair and some very expensive perfume.
 - The religious men in the room couldn't believe Jesus would forgive the sins of a woman like her. They looked down on her for her reputation, her sins, and her act of worship to Jesus.
 - They missed the point that, although she didn't feel worthy, she recognized Jesus was worth what she had — and so much more. Jesus included her, despite the arrogant religious leaders of the day.
- Over and over again, the religious leaders of Jesus' day had to be reminded that God's love and forgiveness is meant for everyone — even people they might not expect.
- But I don't mean to make Peter or these religious leaders sound like the enemy. The truth is, we're a lot like them. Whether it's someone's culture, background, religious practices, bad reputation, or past mistakes, we all have a tendency to make judgments and exclude people.
- We think we can choose who should belong based on our opinions and preferences, but Jesus shows us anyone from any background is welcome at his table. Jesus didn't tell us to pass on the good news to people we like or who are just like us. He asks us instead to **pass on the good news to unexpected people.**

NOW WHAT? *What does God want us to do about it?*

EVERYONE'S INVITED

- Jesus' good news of love, forgiveness, salvation, and new life includes everyone because he wants everyone to know him. Everyone's invited! A lot of Jesus-followers will say they believe that's true, but (like Peter) we sometimes start to put rules in place or (like the religious leaders) decide some people are exceptions to that "everyone's invited" rule.
 - But like God reminded Peter, knowing Jesus is less about following lots of little rules and more about focusing on the things that really matter. There is no need to try to work for Jesus to love you. He already does! In fact, before you were born, God already loved you.

- And like Jesus reminded the religious leaders, you don't need to have everything together in order to come to God. Jesus loves you exactly as you are — no matter your reputation, past mistakes, or current struggles. You're invited to know and be near him.

QUESTION | "When have you felt included?"

- Being included by the God of the universe is a pretty big deal, but it can be hard to grasp. It might help to first think about the times when you felt included by ordinary people. We probably all know firsthand how it feels to be left out, but you might also know how it feels to be included.
- Whether it was at a moment when you felt friendless, or overlooked, or judged, or not liked, think about a time when someone made you feel welcomed and loved. **When have you felt included?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give a few students a chance to respond with their stories. If you have time, ask them follow-up questions about how why that memory stands out to them.
- We all know how powerful it is when someone chooses to include us, but why do we fail to give that same kindness to others when they're not being included?
 - I think we can all agree that being included can make the difference in our mood, how we feel about ourselves, how we view the world, and maybe even how we view God.
 - It can be hard to believe Jesus wants to include you when it seems like Jesus' followers don't want to include you. That's why Jesus's challenge to include everyone matters.
 - This doesn't mean you have to include everyone all the time. It doesn't mean you can't have boundaries or a small group of close friends. It just means you have the opportunity to look outside your immediate circle and be aware of the people who are hurting because they've been left out.

REFLECTION | Mission: Inclusive

- Including others who've been excluded is something everyone can do. But if you know Jesus, you have the opportunity to not only be a friend, but to help someone discover who Jesus is at the same time. So who might some of those people be? Are they people who are . . .
 - Looking for a friend?
 - Easy to judge because of their reputation or mistakes?
 - Hard to like?
 - Hard to understand?
 - Coming from a different background, culture, or situation than you?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before your teaching time, print and cut the handout provided in your Week 2 folder. Place one under each seat, along with a pen. Encourage students to write and reflect in groups or individually.
- As we take some time to reflect on who we've noticed being excluded, ask God to bring someone to mind who you could include.

- First, write a name or the type of person God is bringing to your mind.
- Second, dream about how you might be able to include them like Jesus would.
- Third, write a name or two of a friend you'd like to challenge or partner with on this mission to include the person you wrote down.
- God calls us to share the good news of Jesus with unexpected people – even people who we find difficult to love or accept. But sharing God's love with someone is hard when you don't actually know or like them first. So reach out to someone unexpected this week.
 - It will remind you that God loves everyone – even the people who you find hard to love.
 - It will give you a chance to share the good news of Jesus through kindness and friendship.
 - And it might even give you a chance to share the good news of Jesus with your words too.
- If you've received the good news of Jesus, remember, now you can pass it on to others. It is not up to you to decide who's ready or worthy to hear about God's love. It's up to God. **You can pass on the good news to unexpected people.**

RESPONSE | The Pass It On Challenge

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** We suggest using this series as a launching point for this quarter's Discipleship Activity, *The Pass It On Challenge*. You can find this resource in the discipleship section of your dashboard.

WEEK 2

SMALL GROUP GUIDE



With social media, just about anyone can be an **influencer** with the right content, good timing, and a little bit of luck. Invent a new dance, share a funny take, catch the right moment on camera, and you could get millions of views. Some **influencers** mostly just use their platforms to get free stuff, but once in a while, you find someone who uses their platform to talk about things that actually matter. Obviously, they didn't have social media back in Jesus' day, but in the Bible, the book of Acts is filled with stories about **influencers** who had important things to say. In this 4-week series, we'll hear their stories, discover that **our lives can pass on the good news**, and learn how to pass on the good news to **unexpected people**, to **our families**, and **with humility**.

THIS WEEK

THE BIG IDEA

We can pass on the good news to unexpected people.

THE BIBLE

Acts 10:9-11:18; Luke 7:36-50;
I Peter 3:15

- **If you could be forever uninvited from doing one thing you hate doing, what would it be?**
- **Have you ever not been invited to do something you really wanted to do? What was that like?**
- **What are some of the ways we exclude people by accident? What about on purpose?**
- **Why do you think Peter didn't want to eat with people who didn't share his religious traditions? Why did he change his mind?**
- **What are some of the reasons why someone might feel unwelcome at church or around followers of Jesus?**
- **If Jesus were on earth today, what kinds of "unexpected" people do you think he might be spending time with? Why do you think so?**
- **Read I Peter 3:15. Have you ever seen someone try to pass on the good news without "gentleness and respect"? What happened and what can we learn from that?**
- **What are some of the reasons you might have a hard time including someone in your circle of friends? What would it look like to show more "gentleness and respect" in those situations?**
- **Do you think it's important for someone to feel loved by Jesus' followers before they decide to follow Jesus for themselves? Why or why not?**
- **Who is an "unexpected" person God might be asking you to include this week? What are you going to do about it?**

WEEK 2

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

for middle schoolers



With social media, just about anyone can be an **influencer** with the right content, good timing, and a little bit of luck. Invent a new dance, share a funny take, catch the right moment on camera, and you could get millions of views. Some **influencers** mostly just use their platforms to get free stuff, but once in a while, you find someone who uses their platform to talk about things that actually matter. Obviously, they didn't have social media back in Jesus' day, but in the Bible, the book of Acts is filled with stories about **influencers** who had important things to say. In this 4-week series, we'll hear their stories, discover that **our lives can pass on the good news**, and learn how to pass on the good news to **unexpected people**, to **our families, and with humility**.

THIS WEEK

THE BIG IDEA

We can pass on the good news to unexpected people.

THE BIBLE

Acts 10:9-11:18; Luke 7:36-50;
I Peter 3:15

- **If you could be forever uninvited from doing one thing you hate doing, what would it be?**
- **Have you ever not been invited to do something you really wanted to do? What was that like?**
- **What are some of the ways we exclude people by accident? What about on purpose?**
- **What are some of the reasons why someone might feel unwelcome at church or around followers of Jesus?**
- **Read I Peter 3:15. Have you ever seen someone try to pass on the good news without “gentleness and respect”? What happened and what can we learn from that?**
- **Who is an “unexpected” person God might be asking you to include this week? What are you going to do about it?**

WEEK 2 HYBRID TEACHING GUIDE



THE BIG IDEA

We can pass on the good news to unexpected people.

THE BIBLE

Acts 10:9-11:18; Luke 7:36-50;
1 Peter 3:15

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

RESPONSE | The Pass It On Board (Week 2)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before your teaching time, create a large [cork board](#), [dry erase board](#), or section of wall where students can pin or tape their ideas. Print and cut more of the handouts provided in your Week 1 folder. Place stacks of them near the board, along with pens. Before, during, and after your teaching time, ask students to write down some specific ways they could serve others and meet needs in their communities and add it to the board. Encourage them to read other students' ideas as well to see if anyone had similar ideas and might want to collaborate. Next week, you'll challenge students to choose one of those ideas to act on in groups.

ACTIVITY | Draw the Message

- Welcome back to *Pass It On*, where we're talking about passing on some pretty important messages to others – and how those messages can sometimes get a little jumbled.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this twist on the classic game Telephone, you'll need plenty of [index cards](#) and pens for every player. To play, split your students into groups of 3-10 players. Give each group a stack of index cards and pens for everyone. Bring one student from each group to the side and assign them all an object to draw on their index card, without using any words. After 30 seconds, have them place the index card on the top of their stack (face up) and pass it to the person next to them. That person must study the image, place the card on the bottom of the stack, and write what they think the first player was trying to draw. After 30 seconds, have them place the index card on the top of their stack (face up) and pass it to the person next to them. The third person

must read what they wrote, place the card on the bottom of the stack, and try to draw what the person before them described. Keep going until everyone has either drawn or written something. Then compare the first and last cards to see how the message changed over time. Be sure to give your students weird drawing assignments, like . . .

- A dinosaur with a bowtie.
- A TikTok dance.
- Your dog eating your homework.
- A zoo where humans are the exhibits and the animals pay to look at them.
- In your everyday life, you probably won't need to pass on cryptic messages about dinosaurs in bowties, but maybe you know what it's like to miscommunicate. Sometimes we . . .
 - Misunderstand each other.
 - Leave out or miss important information.
 - Forget to deliver an important message.
 - Or never get the message someone else was supposed to deliver.

STORY | Talk about a time you were left out of an important announcement.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Tell a story from your own life (or ask a volunteer or student to tell a story) about a time when you felt left out because you didn't receive an invitation, message, or update. Maybe you weren't invited to a party, or showed up somewhere alone because you didn't realize the schedule had changed, or everyone forgot to tell you about a big piece of family news.
- It doesn't feel great to miss out on hearing important news. Depending on the situation, it can feel frustrating, lonely, and hurtful. It can make you feel excluded, even if that wasn't anyone's intention.
- We've all had moments when we felt excluded, right? And we've all noticed when someone else was being excluded, right?
 - Maybe you're the person who often feels overlooked or left out.
 - Maybe you sometimes like excluding certain people because it makes you feel better about yourself.
 - Maybe you've left someone out before — not because you want to be mean, but because you felt shy, were uncertain how they would respond to your invitation, or knew someone else in your friend group didn't want them there.
- Today, we're going to keep talking about some important messages Jesus invites us to pass on to others. But as we do, think about these questions:
 - Who do you have a hard time including in your circle of friends?
 - Have you ever left anyone out because you had a disagreement with them?
 - And how might people sometimes feel excluded by followers of Jesus?

DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Break for discussion. If you have more than ten students, split into groups so everyone can share. The starred questions are designed for high schoolers, so you may want to skip them if you're working only with middle schoolers.

- If you could be forever uninvited from doing one thing you hate doing, what would it be?
- Have you ever not been invited to do something you really wanted to do? What was that like?
- What are some of the ways we exclude people by accident? What about on purpose?

SO WHAT? *Why does it matter to God and to us?*

SCRIPTURE | Acts 10:9-11:18

- You might think feeling left out or excluded is something only young people have to deal with. But the truth is, we all have the tendency to feel left out and to leave others out – sometimes intentionally, and sometimes not. Even the earliest followers of Jesus struggled with this!
- Like we said last week, Jesus gave all of his followers a challenge to share the “good news” with everyone.
 - The “good news” is that Jesus came to rescue us from sin and death and give us new life in him.
 - That good news is worth spreading! That’s why Jesus told us to share it everywhere, all over the world. Because Jesus’ love and grace has always been for everyone. He wants everyone to be included.
 - But when people first started following Jesus, this message got a little lost.
- Today I want to introduce you to the apostle Peter. Some people viewed him as the leader of Jesus’s inner circle – Jesus’ closest friends and followers.
 - Peter was the first disciple to truly recognize and say out loud who Jesus was.
 - He was one of the first disciples to discover Jesus had risen from the dead.
 - He’s one of the most important leaders of the early church.
 - Once, when he preached, thousands of people came to know Jesus for the first time!
- But at some point, Peter got a little confused about Jesus’ good news. Instead of sharing it with everyone, he mostly just shared it with people who were like him – Jewish. That is, until God called him out. Here’s how Luke, the author of the book of Acts, describes what happened . . .
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read or summarize Acts 10:9-11:18, reading key verses like 10:34-42 and 11:17-18.*
- This might sound like a weird story about sheets and animals falling out of the sky, but here’s the point: God told Peter in a dream that the good news of Jesus wasn’t simply for Jewish people – it was for all people!
 - Peter grew up Jewish, just like Jesus did. If you were Jewish, there were a lot of Jewish laws you were supposed to follow in order to be “pure” or “clean” before God. A lot of those laws had to do with food.
 - Jewish people didn’t eat certain foods out of respect for God, but non-Jewish people (called Gentiles) did eat those foods and saw nothing wrong with it. But this made things difficult when Jewish and non-Jewish people tried to hang out. Dinners were tense, so Jewish Christians like Peter simply didn’t eat with non-Jewish Christians.

- But, as God showed Peter, the Jewish followers of Jesus were excluding a whole group of people who were important to God!
- God didn't tell Peter he was wrong for wanting to respect God with his religious practices. Instead, God was letting him know that people hearing the good news of Jesus was more important than Peter's religious customs.
- This message would have been pretty unexpected to Peter. After all, he thought he'd been doing what pleased God! Even he had to be reminded that the good news of Jesus is meant for everyone — even people we might not expect.

SCRIPTURE | Luke 7:36-50

- This shouldn't surprise us though. Jesus made it a habit to include unexpected people all the time. Instead of hanging out with religious people, powerful people, or wealthy people, Jesus chose to focus his time on . . .
 - Sick people.
 - Poor people.
 - Marginalized people.
 - Sinful people.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read or summarize Luke 7:36-50.*
- This woman didn't have a great reputation in her community, yet she recognized who Jesus was and wanted to honor him with what she had — her hair and some very expensive perfume.
 - The religious men in the room couldn't believe Jesus would forgive the sins of a woman like her. They looked down on her for her reputation, her sins, and her act of worship to Jesus.
 - They missed the point that, although she didn't feel worthy, she recognized Jesus was worth what she had — and so much more. Jesus included her, despite the arrogant religious leaders of the day.
- Over and over again, the religious leaders of Jesus' day had to be reminded that God's love and forgiveness is meant for everyone — even people they might not expect.
- But I don't mean to make Peter or these religious leaders sound like the enemy. The truth is, we're a lot like them. Whether it's someone's culture, background, religious practices, bad reputation, or past mistakes, we all have a tendency to make judgments and exclude people.
- We think we can choose who should belong based on our opinions and preferences, but Jesus shows us anyone from any background is welcome at his table. Jesus didn't tell us to pass on the good news to people we like or who are just like us. He asks us instead to **pass on the good news to unexpected people.**

NOW WHAT? *What does God want us to do about it?*

DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Break for discussion. If you have more than ten students, split into groups so everyone can share. The starred questions are designed for high schoolers, so you may want to skip them if you're working only with middle schoolers.*

- ✪ Why do you think Peter didn't want to eat with people who didn't share his religious traditions? Why did he change his mind?
- What are some of the reasons why someone might feel unwelcome at church or around followers of Jesus?
- ✪ If Jesus were on earth today, what kinds of "unexpected" people do you think he might be spending time with? Why do you think so?

EVERYONE'S INVITED

- Jesus' good news of love, forgiveness, salvation, and new life includes everyone because he wants everyone to know him. Everyone's invited! A lot of Jesus-followers will say they believe that's true, but (like Peter) we sometimes start to put rules in place or (like the religious leaders) decide some people are exceptions to that "everyone's invited" rule.
 - But like God reminded Peter, knowing Jesus is less about following lots of little rules and more about focusing on the things that really matter. There is no need to try to work for Jesus to love you. He already does! In fact, before you were born, God already loved you.
 - And like Jesus reminded the religious leaders, you don't need to have everything together in order to come to God. Jesus loves you exactly as you are — no matter your reputation, past mistakes, or current struggles. You're invited to know and be near him.

QUESTION | "When have you felt included?"

- Being included by the God of the universe is a pretty big deal, but it can be hard to grasp. It might help to first think about the times when you felt included by ordinary people. We probably all know firsthand how it feels to be left out, but you might also know how it feels to be included.
- Whether it was at a moment when you felt friendless, or overlooked, or judged, or not liked, think about a time when someone made you feel welcomed and loved. **When have you felt included?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give a few students a chance to respond with their stories. If you have time, ask them follow-up questions about how why that memory stands out to them.
- We all know how powerful it is when someone chooses to include us, but why do we fail to give that same kindness to others when they're not being included?
 - I think we can all agree that being included can make the difference in our mood, how we feel about ourselves, how we view the world, and maybe even how we view God.
 - It can be hard to believe Jesus wants to include you when it seems like Jesus' followers don't want to include you. That's why Jesus's challenge to include everyone matters.
 - This doesn't mean you have to include everyone all the time. It doesn't mean you can't have boundaries or a small group of close friends. It just means you have the opportunity to look outside your immediate circle and be aware of the people who are hurting because they've been left out.

DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Break for discussion. If you have more than ten students, split into groups so everyone can share. The starred questions are designed for high schoolers, so you may want to skip them if you're working only with middle schoolers.
 - **Read I Peter 3:15. Have you ever seen someone try to pass on the good news without "gentleness and respect"? What happened and what can we learn from that?**
 - ★ **What are some of the reasons you might have a hard time including someone in your circle of friends? What would it look like to show more "gentleness and respect" in those situations?**

REFLECTION | Mission: Inclusive

- Including others who've been excluded is something everyone can do. But if you know Jesus, you have the opportunity to not only be a friend, but to help someone discover who Jesus is at the same time. So who might some of those people be? Are they people who are . . .
 - Looking for a friend?
 - Easy to judge because of their reputation or mistakes?
 - Hard to like?
 - Hard to understand?
 - Coming from a different background, culture, or situation than you?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before your teaching time, print and cut the handout provided in your Week 2 folder. Place one under each seat, along with a pen. Encourage students to write and reflect in groups or individually.
- As we take some time to reflect on who we've noticed being excluded, ask God to bring someone to mind who you could include.
 - First, write a name or the type of person God is bringing to your mind.
 - Second, dream about how you might be able to include them like Jesus would.
 - Third, write a name or two of a friend you'd like to challenge or partner with on this mission to include the person you wrote down.
- God calls us to share the good news of Jesus with unexpected people — even people who we find difficult to love or accept. But sharing God's love with someone is hard when you don't actually know or like them first. So reach out to someone unexpected this week.
 - It will remind you that God loves everyone — even the people who you find hard to love.
 - It will give you a chance to share the good news of Jesus through kindness and friendship.
 - And it might even give you a chance to share the good news of Jesus with your words too.
- If you've received the good news of Jesus, remember, now you can pass it on to others. It is not up to you to decide who's ready or worthy to hear about God's love. It's up to God. **You can pass on the good news to unexpected people.**

DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Break for discussion. If you have more than ten students, split into groups so everyone can share. The starred questions are designed for high schoolers, so you may want to skip them if you're working only with middle schoolers.
 - ★ **Do you think it's important for someone to feel loved by Jesus' followers before they decide to follow Jesus for themselves? Why or why not?**
 - **Who is an "unexpected" person God might be asking you to include this week? What are you going to do about it?**

RESPONSE | The Pass It On Challenge

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** We suggest using this series as a launching point for this quarter's Discipleship Activity, The Pass It On Challenge. You can find this resource in the discipleship section of your dashboard.

MISSION: Inclusive

#1

Who is God bringing to mind?

#2

How could you include them?

#3

Who could you partner with?



MISSION: Inclusive

#1

Who is God bringing to mind?

#2

How could you include them?

#3

Who could you partner with?



WEEK 3 SERMON GUIDE



THE BIG IDEA

You can pass on the good news to your family.

THE BIBLE

Acts 16:9-15; II Timothy 1:3-5;
II Corinthians 5:18-20; I Timothy 4:12

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

RESPONSE | The Pass It On Board (Week 3)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before, during, and after your teaching time, ask students to read the responses on the board from the previous week and add more ideas if they have them. Encourage them (with help from you and your volunteers) to choose at least one way to serve others and do it! You can do this all together, in small groups, or on an individual basis. Whatever you decide, just be sure to communicate clearly with local organizations, parents, and students as you make plans on how you'll serve.*

ACTIVITY | Carrier Pigeon Relay

- Welcome back to *Pass It On*, where we've been talking about passing on some important messages to others. If you're like most people, you're probably communicating with people and sharing messages all the time. In any given day, you might communicate through . . .
 - Texts.
 - Likes and comments.
 - Social media.
 - Passed notes.
 - That look you give your best friend when something funny happens and you're trying not to laugh.
 - And sometimes even real life conversations.
- Aren't you glad we don't have to send messages through old technology like horse-drawn wagons, or telegraphs, or . . . carrier pigeons?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this game, all you'll need is some paper or [index cards](#), a few [big bowls](#), and a few [bird masks](#). Before your teaching time, choose a 10-word sentence about whatever you'd like (like, "Don't forget, summer camp is now only ten days away!" or "We can pass on the good news to unexpected people"). Write one word on each piece of paper or index card and place them in the bowls – one bowl (and complete sentence) per team. Place the bowls on one side of the room, divide students into teams, and have the teams stand in single-file lines on the opposite side of the room. To play, have teams send one team member at a time across the room (while wearing the bird mask) to grab a word from the bowl and bring it back. Each team member can only carry one word at a time. The team that collects all the words and puts them into the correct order first wins.

POLL | Family Dynamics

- Obviously, carrier pigeons are not the most efficient way of communication. These days, we have a lot more efficient ways to tell each other what we're thinking. But there is one group of people that most of us have a hard time communicating with, no matter how far technology advances: our family members.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Conduct a poll by asking students to respond to each of the following questions. You can do this by having students raise their hands, or using an app like [polleverywhere.com](#), or splitting the room into sections and having students run to the section that represents their answer.
 - On a scale of 1-5, how easy is it for you talk to your family members?
 - On a scale of 1-5, how well do you think your family listens to and understands you?
 - On a scale of 1-5, how well do you think you listen to and understand your family members?
 - How many of your family members do you struggle to communicate with: none of them, some of them, or all of them?
 - How likely is it that you would talk to your immediate family about something important to you: not likely, very likely, or it depends on the topic?
- Our relationships with our family are supposed to be the strongest and most valuable relationships we have! But sometimes they get under our skin.

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

STORY | Talk about a time you struggled to show love to a family member.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Tell a story from your own life (or ask a student or volunteer to tell a story) about a time when you struggled to respond to a family member in a loving way. This could be a lighthearted and relatable moment or you could get more vulnerable and share something more difficult. Either way, share what was happening and why it was difficult for you to show them love. Then ask if anyone can relate.

- For the last few weeks, we've been talking about passing on the good news of Jesus to others, both with our words and with our lives. We've talked about how . . .
 - Jesus challenged us to tell everyone about the good news that he's alive and he can rescue us from sin and death.
 - We can share that good news with our lives by loving people with both our actions and our words.
 - We're called to share the good news with everyone — including people who might surprise or challenge us.
- But what about our families? They might be some of the most challenging people to love or communicate with sometimes, so how do we share the good news with them?
 - If you know Jesus but your family doesn't, you might be wondering, "Telling my family about Jesus seems really uncomfortable. What do I do? What if they don't listen?"
 - And if your family already knows Jesus, it's not time for you to tune out. Even if your family members already know Jesus, you still have a mission to show them the good news of Jesus through your actions.

QUESTION | "How do we pass on the good news with our actions?"

- So what does it mean to pass on the good news with our actions rather our words?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give a few students a chance to respond. Write their responses on a [dry erase board](#) or display them on screen by writing them in a note-taking app on your device and mirroring it to your screen. You'll add to this list later.
- Throughout this series, we've been talking about how showing the good news of Jesus through our actions can help us develop the influence we need in people's lives to share the good news of Jesus with our words. This is true for our families too.

SCRIPTURE | Acts 16:9-15

- If you're familiar with the Bible, you might know it's full of stories of people sharing the good news of Jesus all over the world. They go on long journeys, have dramatic adventures, and take big risks in order to share the good news of Jesus with others.
- But the Bible is also full of stories of people who shared the good news of Jesus with their own family members. Their stories might not be the most dramatic or adventurous, but they're just as powerful and important — like Lydia's story.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read Acts 16:9-15.
- When Paul arrived in her city, Lydia already loved God but she didn't know about Jesus and the good news he offers. Although we don't know the details of how this all happened, we know . . .
 - Lydia heard the good news from Paul.
 - She went home and immediately shared the good news with her family.
 - Her family was so convinced that they all returned together to be baptized.
 - Their family even gave Paul and his team a place to stay while they were on a missionary journey.
- Lydia not only responded to the good news of Jesus for herself, but she then passed it on to her whole family.

SCRIPTURE | II Timothy 1:3–5

- Now let me tell you about Lois and Eunice.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read II Timothy 1:3–5.*
- Timothy is a major figure in the New Testament. He was mentored by the apostle Paul and was instrumental in bringing the good news of Jesus to new parts of the world. He even has two books of the Bible written to him. I & II Timothy are letters Paul wrote to Timothy to help train him.
- But here, we learn that Timothy’s journey of faith didn’t start with Timothy or Paul. It started generations earlier, with Timothy’s grandmother Lois. She passed her faith on to her daughter Eunice. Eunice passed her faith down to her son Timothy. And Timothy passed his faith on to countless others when he became a pastor and a missionary.

SCRIPTURE | II Corinthians 5:18–20

- The Bible is full of stories like these. At first glance, they’re easy to miss because they’re mentioned so briefly. But behind these brief comments are stories of people who were committed to passing on the good news of Jesus to the people they loved most – their families.
- In all of these stories, these people were acting as “ambassadors” for Jesus to their families. An ambassador is someone who speaks on someone else’s behalf.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read II Corinthians 5:18–20.*
- It’s pretty incredible that once we know Jesus, we’re invited to become ambassadors for him. We’re invited to speak on his behalf by passing on his good news to others. So what does it mean to be an ambassador for Jesus to your family?
 - If your family doesn’t know Jesus, it might mean using your words to share the good news of Jesus with them.
 - But whether your family knows Jesus or not, we can be Jesus’ ambassador at home by the way we live and love our families in Jesus’ name. We can pass on the good news to our families with the way we treat them, talk to them, and talk about Jesus with them.
- If you know Jesus but your family doesn’t, I know that can be a lot of pressure. You might feel responsible for making sure they begin to follow Jesus too.
 - If that’s you, remember this: you’re not responsible for anyone else’s faith. The only thing you’re responsible for is passing on the good news with your words and actions. How they respond to Jesus is up to them.
 - Lydia’s family made quick decisions to follow Jesus, but it may take a long time for your family to really hear the good news of Jesus. That’s okay. Everyone has the opportunity to know Jesus in their own time, just as you did.
 - It may be discouraging to be one of the only people in your family who is following Jesus, but don’t give up. Your life and faith just might make them curious to know more.
- No matter what your family believes about Jesus right now, you can be an ambassador for Jesus at home through your words and actions. Just like Lydia, Lois, and Eunice passed on the good news to their families, **you can pass on the good news to your family.**

NOW WHAT? *What does God want us to do about it?*

QUESTION | “How can we pass on the good news to our families?”

- A few minutes ago, we made a list of some ways we can pass on the good news with our actions, but now let’s get a little more specific and practical. **How can we pass on the good news to our families?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Bring back the list you began making earlier and add to it. Here are a few ideas to add if your students are struggling . . .*
 - *Doing chores without complaining.*
 - *Sharing what God is teaching you.*
 - *Asking your family questions about faith.*
 - *Inviting family members to pray, go to church, or read the Bible with you.*
 - *Being kind – even when it’s hard.*
 - *Honoring the adults in your family when they set rules and guidelines.*
 - *Apologizing.*
 - *Asking your family how you can pray for them.*
- These things we’ve listed are great ways to share the good news of Jesus with our families by serving them. But remember, we’re not simply listing ways for you to “be nice.” We’re giving examples of how we can be good news for others through our actions.

3 REASONS TO SERVE YOUR FAMILY

- In Scripture, we’re shown a standard for serving others that goes beyond just “being nice” and instead, reflects God’s love in practical ways. Here are three quick reasons why you should serve our families:
 - **JESUS SERVED OTHERS.** Jesus, the Savior of the world, repeatedly humbled himself to show us that to be the greatest of all you must become the servant of all. We can follow his example with the people closest to us.
 - **SERVING KEEPS YOU HUMBLE.** When we take time to think about the people around us instead of ourselves, it changes how we think and changes our heart.
 - **YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO GIVE.** One thing that often keeps people from serving others is they think they don’t have anything to offer. But you do! Even if it’s something as simple as your time, your help, or your attention, you have something to give to your family.
- The idea of passing on the good news to our families can feel really overwhelming at first.
 - You might think you need to make a formal announcement or gather everyone for a family meeting where you preach them a sermon or something.
 - You might think they won’t listen to you because they’ve seen you at your worst.
 - You might feel like a fake because your family knew you before you knew Jesus and changing your life is often hard and slow work.
 - You might feel discouraged that your family doesn’t support you or agree with your beliefs.

- You might feel unprepared, too young, or too new in your faith to share anything helpful with your older family members.
- Sometimes our families are the hardest people to pass on the good news to. But don't be discouraged.
 - The way you love and serve your family will give you opportunities to pass on the good news of Jesus with your actions.
 - Your continued faithfulness and consistency to loving God and then will earn you influence and credibility when you do share what you believe with words.
 - And remember, you can't control what anyone does with the good news of Jesus. The only thing you can control is whether or not you'll pass it on.
- So this week, as you think about who God might be asking you to share the good news with, maybe look a little closer to home. Whether your family knows Jesus or not, **you can pass on the good news to your family.**

RESPONSE | The Pass It On Challenge

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *We suggest using this series as a launching point for this quarter's Discipleship Activity, The Pass It On Challenge. You can find this resource in the discipleship section of your dashboard.*

WEEK 3

SMALL GROUP GUIDE



With social media, just about anyone can be an **influencer** with the right content, good timing, and a little bit of luck. Invent a new dance, share a funny take, catch the right moment on camera, and you could get millions of views. Some **influencers** mostly just use their platforms to get free stuff, but once in a while, you find someone who uses their platform to talk about things that actually matter. Obviously, they didn't have social media back in Jesus' day, but in the Bible, the book of Acts is filled with stories about **influencers** who had important things to say. In this 4-week series, we'll hear their stories, discover that **our lives can pass on the good news**, and learn how to pass on the good news to **unexpected people**, to **our families**, and with **humility**.

THIS WEEK

THE BIG IDEA

You can pass on the good news to your family.

THE BIBLE

Acts 16:9-15; II Timothy 1:3-5;
II Corinthians 5:18-20; I Timothy 4:12

- Which fictional family is your family most like and why?
- Do your family members have mostly similar or mostly different beliefs about God? What's that like?
- Who in your family are you most comfortable talking to about God? Why is it easy to talk to them?
- Is there anyone in your family you're not comfortable talking to about God? Why or why not?
- We don't know the details, but if you had to guess, why do you think Lydia's family was so receptive to the good news of Jesus when she shared it with them? How do you think your family would respond if you were in Lydia's shoes?
- If someone is the only Jesus-follower in their family, do you think that means they're responsible for getting the rest of their family to know Jesus? Why or why not?
- How can we be "ambassadors" for Jesus when our families don't already know him? How can we be "ambassadors" when our families already do know Jesus?
- Read I Timothy 4:12. What do you think it would look like to "set an example" for your family with your speech? Your conduct? Your love? Your faith? Your purity?
- This week, what's one way you're going to pass on the good news to your family with your actions? What do you think your biggest challenge will be?
- Is there anyone in your family who might need you to share the good news of Jesus with your words? If so, what do you think your biggest challenge will be?

ACTIVITY

Spend time praying for each other, for each other's families, and for the needs and challenges that were mentioned during your conversation.

WEEK 3

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

for middle schoolers



With social media, just about anyone can be an **influencer** with the right content, good timing, and a little bit of luck. Invent a new dance, share a funny take, catch the right moment on camera, and you could get millions of views. Some **influencers** mostly just use their platforms to get free stuff, but once in a while, you find someone who uses their platform to talk about things that actually matter. Obviously, they didn't have social media back in Jesus' day, but in the Bible, the book of Acts is filled with stories about **influencers** who had important things to say. In this 4-week series, we'll hear their stories, discover that **our lives can pass on the good news**, and learn how to pass on the good news to **unexpected people**, to **our families**, and **with humility**.

THIS WEEK

THE BIG IDEA

You can pass on the good news to your family.

THE BIBLE

Acts 16:9-15; II Timothy 1:3-5;
II Corinthians 5:18-20; I Timothy 4:12

- Which fictional family is your family most like and why?
- Do your family members have mostly similar or mostly different beliefs about God? What's that like?
- Who in your family are you most comfortable talking to about God? Why is it easy to talk to them?
- If someone is the only Jesus-follower in their family, do you think that means they're responsible for getting the rest of their family to know Jesus? Why or why not?
- Read I Timothy 4:12. What do you think it would look like to "set an example" for your family with your speech? Your conduct? Your love? Your faith? Your purity?
- This week, what's one way you're going to pass on the good news to your family with your actions? What do you think your biggest challenge will be?

ACTIVITY

Spend time praying for each other, for each other's families, and for the needs and challenges that were mentioned during your conversation.

WEEK 3 HYBRID TEACHING GUIDE



THE BIG IDEA

You can pass on the good news to your family.

THE BIBLE

Acts 16:9-15; II Timothy 1:3-5;
II Corinthians 5:18-20; I Timothy 4:12

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

RESPONSE | The Pass It On Board (Week 3)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before, during, and after your teaching time, ask students to read the responses on the board from the previous week and add more ideas if they have them. Encourage them (with help from you and your volunteers) to choose at least one way to serve others and do it! You can do this all together, in small groups, or on an individual basis. Whatever you decide, just be sure to communicate clearly with local organizations, parents, and students as you make plans on how you'll serve.*

ACTIVITY | Carrier Pigeon Relay

- Welcome back to *Pass It On*, where we've been talking about passing on some important messages to others. If you're like most people, you're probably communicating with people and sharing messages all the time. In any given day, you might communicate through . . .
 - Texts.
 - Likes and comments.
 - Social media.
 - Passed notes.
 - That look you give your best friend when something funny happens and you're trying not to laugh.
 - And sometimes even real life conversations.
- Aren't you glad we don't have to send messages through old technology like horse-drawn wagons, or telegraphs, or . . . carrier pigeons?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this game, all you'll need is some paper or [index cards](#), a few [big bowls](#), and a few [bird masks](#). Before your teaching time, choose a 10-word sentence about whatever you'd like (like, "Don't forget, summer camp is now only ten days away!" or "We can pass on the good news to unexpected people"). Write one word on each piece of paper or index card and place them in the bowls – one bowl (and complete sentence) per team. Place the bowls on one side of the room, divide students into teams, and have the teams stand in single-file lines on the opposite side of the room. To play, have teams send one team member at a time across the room (while wearing the bird mask) to grab a word from the bowl and bring it back. Each team member can only carry one word at a time. The team that collects all the words and puts them into the correct order first wins.

POLL | Family Dynamics

- Obviously, carrier pigeons are not the most efficient way of communication. These days, we have a lot more efficient ways to tell each other what we're thinking. But there is one group of people that most of us have a hard time communicating with, no matter how far technology advances: our family members.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Conduct a poll by asking students to respond to each of the following questions. You can do this by having students raise their hands, or using an app like [polleverywhere.com](#), or splitting the room into sections and having students run to the section that represents their answer.
 - **On a scale of 1-5, how easy is it for you talk to your family members?**
 - **On a scale of 1-5, how well do you think your family listens to and understands you?**
 - **On a scale of 1-5, how well do you think you listen to and understand your family members?**
 - **How many of your family members do you struggle to communicate with: none of them, some of them, or all of them?**
 - **How likely is it that you would talk to your immediate family about something important to you: not likely, very likely, or it depends on the topic?**
- Our relationships with our family are supposed to be the strongest and most valuable relationships we have! But sometimes they get under our skin.

DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Break for discussion. If you have more than ten students, split into groups so everyone can share. The starred questions are designed for high schoolers, so you may want to skip them if you're working only with middle schoolers.
 - **Which fictional family is your family most like and why?**

SO WHAT? *Why does it matter to God and to us?*

STORY | Talk about a time you struggled to show love to a family member.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tell a story from your own life (or ask a student or volunteer to tell a story) about a time when you struggled to respond to a family member in a loving way. This could be a lighthearted and relatable moment or you could get more vulnerable and share something more difficult. Either way, share what was happening and why it was difficult for you to show them love. Then ask if anyone can relate.*
- For the last few weeks, we've been talking about passing on the good news of Jesus to others, both with our words and with our lives. We've talked about how . . .
 - Jesus challenged us to tell everyone about the good news that he's alive and he can rescue us from sin and death.
 - We can share that good news with our lives by loving people with both our actions and our words.
 - We're called to share the good news with everyone — including people who might surprise or challenge us.
- But what about our families? They might be some of the most challenging people to love or communicate with sometimes, so how do we share the good news with them?
 - If you know Jesus but your family doesn't, you might be wondering, "Telling my family about Jesus seems really uncomfortable. What do I do? What if they don't listen?"
 - And if your family already knows Jesus, it's not time for you to tune out. Even if your family members already know Jesus, you still have a mission to show them the good news of Jesus through your actions.

QUESTION | "How do we pass on the good news with our actions?"

- So what does it mean to pass on the good news with our actions rather our words?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give a few students a chance to respond. Write their responses on a [dry erase board](#) or display them on screen by writing them in a note-taking app on your device and mirroring it to your screen. You'll add to this list later.*
- Throughout this series, we've been talking about how showing the good news of Jesus through our actions can help us develop the influence we need in people's lives to share the good news of Jesus with our words. This is true for our families too.

DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Break for discussion. If you have more than ten students, split into groups so everyone can share. The starred questions are designed for high schoolers, so you may want to skip them if you're working only with middle schoolers.*
 - **Do your family members have mostly similar or mostly different beliefs about God? What's that like?**
 - **Who in your family are you most comfortable talking to about God? Why is it easy to talk to them?**

🗣️ **Is there anyone in your family you're not comfortable talking to about God? Why or why not?**

SCRIPTURE | Acts 16:9-15

- If you're familiar with the Bible, you might know it's full of stories of people sharing the good news of Jesus all over the world. They go on long journeys, have dramatic adventures, and take big risks in order to share the good news of Jesus with others.
- But the Bible is also full of stories of people who shared the good news of Jesus with their own family members. Their stories might not be the most dramatic or adventurous, but they're just as powerful and important — like Lydia's story.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read Acts 16:9-15.*
- When Paul arrived in her city, Lydia already loved God but she didn't know about Jesus and the good news he offers. Although we don't know the details of how this all happened, we know . . .
 - Lydia heard the good news from Paul.
 - She went home and immediately shared the good news with her family.
 - Her family was so convinced that they all returned together to be baptized.
 - Their family even gave Paul and his team a place to stay while they were on a missionary journey.
- Lydia not only responded to the good news of Jesus for herself, but she then passed it on to her whole family.

SCRIPTURE | II Timothy 1:3-5

- Now let me tell you about Lois and Eunice.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read II Timothy 1:3-5.*
- Timothy is a major figure in the New Testament. He was mentored by the apostle Paul and was instrumental in bringing the good news of Jesus to new parts of the world. He even has two books of the Bible written to him. I & II Timothy are letters Paul wrote to Timothy to help train him.
- But here, we learn that Timothy's journey of faith didn't start with Timothy or Paul. It started generations earlier, with Timothy's grandmother Lois. She passed her faith on to her daughter Eunice. Eunice passed her faith down to her son Timothy. And Timothy passed his faith on to countless others when he became a pastor and a missionary.

SCRIPTURE | II Corinthians 5:18-20

- The Bible is full of stories like these. At first glance, they're easy to miss because they're mentioned so briefly. But behind these brief comments are stories of people who were committed to passing on the good news of Jesus to the people they loved most — their families.
- In all of these stories, these people were acting as "ambassadors" for Jesus to their families. An ambassador is someone who speaks on someone else's behalf.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read II Corinthians 5:18-20.*

- It's pretty incredible that once we know Jesus, we're invited to become ambassadors for him. We're invited to speak on his behalf by passing on his good news to others. So what does it mean to be an ambassador for Jesus to your family?
 - If your family doesn't know Jesus, it might mean using your words to share the good news of Jesus with them.
 - But whether your family knows Jesus or not, we can be Jesus' ambassador at home by the way we live and love our families in Jesus' name. We can pass on the good news to our families with the way we treat them, talk to them, and talk about Jesus with them.
- If you know Jesus but your family doesn't, I know that can be a lot of pressure. You might feel responsible for making sure they begin to follow Jesus too.
 - If that's you, remember this: you're not responsible for anyone else's faith. The only thing you're responsible for is passing on the good news with your words and actions. How they respond to Jesus is up to them.
 - Lydia's family made quick decisions to follow Jesus, but it may take a long time for your family to really hear the good news of Jesus. That's okay. Everyone has the opportunity to know Jesus in their own time, just as you did.
 - It may be discouraging to be one of the only people in your family who is following Jesus, but don't give up. Your life and faith just might make them curious to know more.
- No matter what your family believes about Jesus right now, you can be an ambassador for Jesus at home through your words and actions. Just like Lydia, Lois, and Eunice passed on the good news to their families, **you can pass on the good news to your family.**

NOW WHAT? *What does God want us to do about it?*

DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Break for discussion. If you have more than ten students, split into groups so everyone can share. The starred questions are designed for high schoolers, so you may want to skip them if you're working only with middle schoolers.*
 - ☆ **We don't know the details, but if you had to guess, why do you think Lydia's family was so receptive to the good news of Jesus when she shared it with them? How do you think your family would respond if you were in Lydia's shoes?**
 - **If someone is the only Jesus-follower in their family, do you think that means they're responsible for getting the rest of their family to know Jesus? Why or why not?**
 - ☆ **How can we be "ambassadors" for Jesus when our families don't already know him? How can we be "ambassadors" when our families already do know Jesus?**

QUESTION | “How can we pass on the good news to our families?”

- A few minutes ago, we made a list of some ways we can pass on the good news with our actions, but now let’s get a little more specific and practical. **How can we pass on the good news to our families?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Bring back the list you began making earlier and add to it. Here are a few ideas to add if your students are struggling . . .*
 - *Doing chores without complaining.*
 - *Sharing what God is teaching you.*
 - *Asking your family questions about faith.*
 - *Inviting family members to pray, go to church, or read the Bible with you.*
 - *Being kind — even when it’s hard.*
 - *Honoring the adults in your family when they set rules and guidelines.*
 - *Apologizing.*
 - *Asking your family how you can pray for them.*
- These things we’ve listed are great ways to share the good news of Jesus with our families by serving them. But remember, we’re not simply listing ways for you to “be nice.” We’re giving examples of how we can be good news for others through our actions.

3 REASONS TO SERVE YOUR FAMILY

- In Scripture, we’re shown a standard for serving others that goes beyond just “being nice” and instead, reflects God’s love in practical ways. Here are three quick reasons why you should serve our families:
 - **JESUS SERVED OTHERS.** Jesus, the Savior of the world, repeatedly humbled himself to show us that to be the greatest of all you must become the servant of all. We can follow his example with the people closest to us.
 - **SERVING KEEPS YOU HUMBLE.** When we take time to think about the people around us instead of ourselves, it changes how we think and changes our heart.
 - **YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO GIVE.** One thing that often keeps people from serving others is they think they don’t have anything to offer. But you do! Even if it’s something as simple as your time, your help, or your attention, you have something to give to your family.
- The idea of passing on the good news to our families can feel really overwhelming at first.
 - You might think you need to make a formal announcement or gather everyone for a family meeting where you preach them a sermon or something.
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 - You might feel like a fake because your family knew you before you knew Jesus and changing your life is often hard and slow work.
 - You might feel discouraged that your family doesn’t support you or agree with your beliefs.
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- Sometimes our families are the hardest people to pass on the good news to. But don't be discouraged.
 - The way you love and serve your family will give you opportunities to pass on the good news of Jesus with your actions.
 - Your continued faithfulness and consistency to loving God and then will earn you influence and credibility when you do share what you believe with words.
 - And remember, you can't control what anyone does with the good news of Jesus. The only thing you can control is whether or not you'll pass it on.
- So this week, as you think about who God might be asking you to share the good news with, maybe look a little closer to home. Whether your family knows Jesus or not, **you can pass on the good news to your family.**

DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Break for discussion. If you have more than ten students, split into groups so everyone can share. The starred questions are designed for high schoolers, so you may want to skip them if you're working only with middle schoolers.*
 - **Read I Timothy 4:12. What do you think it would look like to "set an example" for your family with your speech? Your conduct? Your love? Your faith? Your purity?**
 - **This week, what's one way you're going to pass on the good news to your family with your actions? What do you think your biggest challenge will be?**
 - ☆ **Is there anyone in your family who might need you to share the good news of Jesus with your words? If so, what do you think your biggest challenge will be?**

RESPONSE | The Pass It On Challenge

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *We suggest using this series as a launching point for this quarter's Discipleship Activity, The Pass It On Challenge. You can find this resource in the discipleship section of your dashboard.*

WEEK 4 SERMON GUIDE



THE BIG IDEA

You can pass on the good news with humility.

THE BIBLE

Acts 16:16-34;
I Corinthians 3:6-11, 9:16-23

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

RESPONSE | The Pass It On Board (Week 4)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *By now, hopefully you've chosen at least one way to serve others in your community, either as a ministry, small groups, or individuals. Before, during, and after your teaching time, remind students about the details of your service project and encourage them to participate. You may want to keep track of all the ideas your students added to the board and use them to inform your upcoming year of ministry programming, events, and service projects.*

ACTIVITY | Puffed Up Relay

- Welcome to our final week of *Pass It On!* We've been challenging each other to pass on a lot of important messages lately, but it's not always easy to get a message we've passed on to "stick." Let's see how successful you are at it.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this game, you'll need [balloons](#), [tape](#), and whatever objects you can find in your storage closet to make an obstacle course. To play, split students into even teams, have them line up on one side of the room, and put five minutes on the clock. In those five minutes, teams must blow up as many balloons as possible, tape them to one teammate, and then send that player to run through the obstacle course. If a balloon falls off during the race, it cannot be reattached. The team with the most balloons still attached to their teammate at the end of the race wins.*

STORY | Talk about a time you got caught not listening.

- When someone's trying to pass on a message, it's important to communicate clearly. But in order for that message to "stick," the person you're talking to has to actually listen.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tell a story from your own life (or ask a volunteer or student to tell a story) about a time when you got caught not listening when someone was talking. Maybe you were asked a question in class you couldn't answer because you'd been daydreaming, or a friend called you out for not paying attention to the story they were telling, you said "oh, that's cool" after someone told you something upsetting.*
- Has anyone else ever been in this situation? When you're the one not listening, it's kind of embarrassing. When you're the one not being listened to, it's frustrating.
- The truth is, we're all pretty good at talking about ourselves, but we're not always great at listening to others.
 - Have you ever been talking to someone when you suddenly realize the other person hasn't spoken and you're feeling a little lightheaded because you haven't taken a breath in 10 minutes?
 - I think it is pretty normal for people to get stuck in conversations about themselves. I don't know about you, but I like talking about me, my life, my relationships, the things I love, the things I hate, the things that get me excited, the things that make me upset and angry. If you give me the time, I can talk about myself for a while.
- But here's what's interesting. When we make it a habit to not listen to others because we're talking about ourselves all the time, other people make it a habit to not listen to us either. That's not good if you want to have friends. It's also not good if you have an important message you hope people hear.

SO WHAT? *Why does it matter to God and to us?*

ACTIVITY | Stay Focused . . . or Not

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *This listening activity can either be done by splitting your whole group into pairs or by bringing two volunteers to the front to demonstrate. Either way, Partner #1 will share a story while Partner #2 listens (or not). Ask Partner #1 to think of a one-minute story they're excited to tell. When they've got it, put one minute on the clock and ask them to tell the story to Partner #2 – but ask Partner #2 to do everything they can not to pay attention. They can check their phone, close their eyes, strike up a conversation with someone else in the room, or sing a song, for example. When the one minute is up, ask them to try again – but this time, ask Partner #2 to do everything they can to pay attention. Afterward, ask these questions:*
 - **Partner #1, after the first round, how did you feel about sharing your story?**
 - **Partner #2, after the first round, what do you think would have happened if you had tried to tell Partner #1 a story after you had totally ignored theirs?**
 - **Partner #1, how did you feel after the second round? If Partner #2 had wanted to tell you a story when you were done, how likely would you have been to listen?**

- We could come up with all sorts of reasons why we fail to listen well to others. But ultimately it usually comes down to the same problem: we don't listen well because we're too focused on ourselves. When we're focused on ourselves, we . . .
 - Talk more than we listen.
 - Don't ask questions or show curiosity.
 - Fail to consider other people's perspectives.
 - Try to take the spotlight.
- When we do that regularly, it makes people want to pay less attention to what we have to say.

SCRIPTURE | Acts 16:16-34

- For the last few weeks, we've been talking about passing on the good news of Jesus to others. We've talked about how . . .
 - Jesus challenged us to tell everyone about the good news that he's alive and he can rescue us from sin and death.
 - We can share that good news with our lives by loving people with both our actions and our words.
 - We're called to share the good news with everyone – not just the people we want to share it with.
- We've been reading stories from the book of Acts, which is a book that tells the stories of some of the earliest followers of Jesus and how they passed on the good news all over the world.
- Paul and Silas are two of the more well-known people in Acts. They were missionary partners and worked together to share the gospel in places where no one had yet heard of it.
 - Paul and Silas were really good at passing on the good news. They had a huge impact everywhere they went.
 - As we'll see in the story we're about to read, Paul and Silas knew they had an important message to share. They also knew that, if they wanted people to really hear what they had to say, they couldn't make themselves the center of attention.
 - But this wasn't just a fun adventure Paul and Silas knew they could face persecution – even death – for telling others about Jesus.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read Acts 16:16–34.*
- This story really does have everything: demon possession, fortune telling, exorcism, an angry mob, beatings, imprisonment, dungeons, chains and shackles, earthquakes, freedom, redemption, and celebration! But there is one thing about this story that sticks out to me above everything else: humility.
- Some people think humility is thinking less of yourself or refusing to take a compliment. But that's not it at all. Humility is about not drawing unnecessary attention to yourself and drawing attention to others or God instead.
- Let me show you some of the ways I see Paul and Silas choosing humility instead of selfishness – and how their humility helped others hear the good news they had to share.
 - **IN JAIL:** Paul and Silas could have been selfish when they were thrown in jail. They could have run, fought, yelled, or been angry with God because of their situation. Instead, they chose to humbly trust God.

- **IN WORSHIP:** Instead of focusing on their unfortunate situation, Paul and Silas chose to worship instead, putting the focus back on God.
- **WITH THEIR MERCY:** When the jailer was afraid they had escaped, instead of looking out for their own interest, they humbly intervened to rescue him from himself, which put them in greater danger.
- **WITH THEIR MESSAGE:** Whether Paul and Silas were speaking to huge crowds or just one jailer, they didn't make themselves the center of attention. They humbly pointed people to Jesus, the one who could save them.
- Paul and Silas could have focused on themselves and their own needs during this ordeal. They could have grumbled, complained, and wondered why God would have allowed this to happen to them. Instead, they kept their eyes focused on God, on the needs of others, and on their mission to share the good news of Jesus.
- Because of their humility, Paul and Silas not only saw a miracle happen, but they were able to pass on the good news to a man and his entire family!

SCRIPTURE | I Corinthians 9:16–23

- Later in Scripture, Paul himself writes about what it means to him to pass on the good news with humility.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read I Corinthians 9:16–23.*
- Here's what Paul says about passing on the good news:
 - He has nothing to brag about.
 - He didn't care about money, fame, or even his own comfort.
 - He put himself under Jesus' leadership.
 - No matter who Paul was with, he put them and their needs before his own.
- Everything Paul did was to pass on the good news in a way that put Jesus and the needs of others in the spotlight, instead of himself. Because Paul didn't make his message all about himself, many people heard and believed the message Paul had to share.
- Humility is about putting God and others before ourselves. You can try to pass on the good news while being arrogant or self-centered, but if you really want to people to hear what you have to say, **pass on the good news with humility.**

NOW WHAT? *What does God want us to do about it?*

STORY | Talk about a time someone's lack of humility prevented them from effectively talking about their faith.

- Like we saw in our earlier activity, it's difficult to really hear what someone has to say when they're too focused on themselves.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tell a story from your own life (or ask a volunteer or student to tell a story) about a time when someone's lack of humility prevented them from effectively talking about their faith – that someone might even be you. You might talk about someone who was arrogant, or talked more about themselves than Jesus, or someone who failed to get to know the person they were talking to before trying to share the good news with them. Whichever you choose, be sure to explain how the person speaking was not practicing humility and why the person listening did not want to hear what they had to say.*
- Putting others first really does make a difference. It can mean the difference between someone feeling loved and accepted or feeling unimportant and invaluable. It means . . .
 - Making Jesus the hero of our stories instead of ourselves.
 - Being curious instead of assuming we know everything.
 - Asking more questions instead of always trying to give answers.
 - Talking *with* people instead of talking at them.
- If we want someone to really hear the good news of Jesus, then . . .
 - How we treat people matters.
 - How we listen to people matters.
 - How we love people matters.
 - How we pass on the good news matters.

PRAYER | Listening to God

- You know what's interesting about how Paul and Silas? How they knew when to share the good news – and who they should share it with.
 - Sometimes God gave them clear directions about where to go and who to talk to.
 - Sometimes they didn't have clear directions so they just tried to do the next right thing.
 - Sometimes the people they met were seemingly chance encounters.
 - But here's what's always true: Paul was constantly looking for opportunities to pass on the good news everywhere he went.
- I wonder how we could be like Paul in this way?
 - What if we started seeing our family, our classrooms, our sports teams, our lunch tables, our jobs, or even the aisles of the grocery store as places where we could humbly pass on our faith to others?
 - How would this change who we talk to, how we talk to them, and how we listen to them?
 - How could it change your life? And could it change others' lives forever?
- If we want to find the answers to those questions, humility is the key. Like Paul, if we want to pass on the good news with humility, we have to start listening to God more closely.
- For the next few minutes, we're going to practice listening to God by asking questions like these:
 - **How has my lack of humility kept me from passing on the good news in the past?**
 - **What's one way I need to practice being more humble?**
 - **How can I be more aware about passing on the good news to others in my life?**
 - **Who is one person I can focus on this week, besides myself?**
 - **Who is someone who needs to hear the good news and how can I help?**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Spend a few moments in prayer with some quiet music playing in the background. Before your teaching time, print and cut the handouts provided in your Week 4 folder. Place one under each seat, along with a pen. Encourage students to reflect on how they can practice humility. Challenge them to think about how humility and passing the good news go together.
- You and I have had the opportunity to hear the greatest news ever — that Jesus is alive and he came to rescue us. And now we have the opportunity to pass that news onto others. This week and every week, I hope you will . . .
 - Pass on the good news with your whole life — not just with words.
 - Pass on the good news to unexpected people — even the people you struggle to love or accept.
 - Pass on the good news to your family by the way you love them.
 - And **pass on the good news with humility** — because it's not about us and what we can do. It's about Jesus and what he's already done for us.

RESPONSE | The Pass It On Challenge

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** We suggest using this series as a launching point for this quarter's Discipleship Activity, The Pass It On Challenge. You can find this resource in the discipleship section of your dashboard.

WEEK 4

SMALL GROUP GUIDE



With social media, just about anyone can be an **influencer** with the right content, good timing, and a little bit of luck. Invent a new dance, share a funny take, catch the right moment on camera, and you could get millions of views. Some **influencers** mostly just use their platforms to get free stuff, but once in a while, you find someone who uses their platform to talk about things that actually matter. Obviously, they didn't have social media back in Jesus' day, but in the Bible, the book of Acts is filled with stories about **influencers** who had important things to say. In this 4-week series, we'll hear their stories, discover that **our lives can pass on the good news**, and learn how to pass on the good news to **unexpected people**, to **our families**, and **with humility**.

THIS WEEK

THE BIG IDEA

You can pass on the good news with humility.

THE BIBLE

Acts 16:16-34;
I Corinthians 3:6-11, 9:16-23

- You have 10 seconds — brag about something you've accomplished or that you really like about yourself.
- How much time do you think the average person spends each day thinking about themselves versus thinking about other people? Do you think those numbers are also true for you?
- Do you think it's always selfish to enjoy having someone's attention, getting recognition, or talking about yourself? Why or why not?
- How do we know when our desire to be noticed or appreciated has gone beyond what's normal and become selfish?
- How would you define "humility"? How did Paul and Silas demonstrate humility?
- What are some ways a lack of humility could prevent someone from passing on the good news of Jesus effectively?
- Read I Corinthians 3:6-11. In this passage, what is Paul trying to help us understand about passing on the good news?
- If you follow Jesus, who are some of the people who helped you get to know him? How did those people each play different roles in passing on the good news to you?
- If it's true that no one person can take all the credit for someone choosing to follow Jesus, how does that change the way you think about passing on the good news to others?
- This week, what's one way you need to practice more humility? And how do you think that will help you pass on the good news of Jesus more effectively?

WEEK 4

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

for middle schoolers



With social media, just about anyone can be an **influencer** with the right content, good timing, and a little bit of luck. Invent a new dance, share a funny take, catch the right moment on camera, and you could get millions of views. Some **influencers** mostly just use their platforms to get free stuff, but once in a while, you find someone who uses their platform to talk about things that actually matter. Obviously, they didn't have social media back in Jesus' day, but in the Bible, the book of Acts is filled with stories about **influencers** who had important things to say. In this 4-week series, we'll hear their stories, discover that **our lives can pass on the good news**, and learn how to pass on the good news to **unexpected people**, to **our families**, and **with humility**.

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You can pass on the good news with humility.

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Acts 16:16-34;
I Corinthians 3:6-11, 9:16-23

- **You have 10 seconds – brag about something you've accomplished or that you really like about yourself.**
- **Do you think it's always selfish to enjoy having someone's attention, getting recognition, or talking about yourself? Why or why not?**
- **What are some ways a lack of humility could prevent someone from passing on the good news of Jesus effectively?**
- **Read I Corinthians 3:6-11. In this passage, what is Paul trying to help us understand about passing on the good news?**
- **If you follow Jesus, who are some of the people who helped you get to know him? How did those people each play different roles in passing on the good news to you?**
- **This week, what's one way you need to practice more humility? And how do you think that will help you pass on the good news of Jesus more effectively?**

WEEK 4 HYBRID TEACHING GUIDE



THE BIG IDEA

You can pass on the good news with humility.

THE BIBLE

Acts 16:16-34;
I Corinthians 3:6-11, 9:16-23

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

RESPONSE | The Pass It On Board (Week 4)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *By now, hopefully you've chosen at least one way to serve others in your community, either as a ministry, small groups, or individuals. Before, during, and after your teaching time, remind students about the details of your service project and encourage them to participate. You may want to keep track of all the ideas your students added to the board and use them to inform your upcoming year of ministry programming, events, and service projects.*

ACTIVITY | Puffed Up Relay

- Welcome to our final week of *Pass It On!* We've been challenging each other to pass on a lot of important messages lately, but it's not always easy to get a message we've passed on to "stick." Let's see how successful you are at it.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this game, you'll need [balloons](#), [tape](#), and whatever objects you can find in your storage closet to make an obstacle course. To play, split students into even teams, have them line up on one side of the room, and put five minutes on the clock. In those five minutes, teams must blow up as many balloons as possible, tape them to one teammate, and then send that player to run through the obstacle course. If a balloon falls off during the race, it cannot be reattached. The team with the most balloons still attached to their teammate at the end of the race wins.*

STORY | Talk about a time you got caught not listening.

- When someone's trying to pass on a message, it's important to communicate clearly. But in order for that message to "stick," the person you're talking to has to actually listen.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tell a story from your own life (or ask a volunteer or student to tell a story) about a time when you got caught not listening when someone was talking. Maybe you were asked a question in class you couldn't answer because you'd been daydreaming, or a friend called you out for not paying attention to the story they were telling, you said "oh, that's cool" after someone told you something upsetting.*
- Has anyone else ever been in this situation? When you're the one not listening, it's kind of embarrassing. When you're the one not being listened to, it's frustrating.
- The truth is, we're all pretty good at talking about ourselves, but we're not always great at listening to others.
 - Have you ever been talking to someone when you suddenly realize the other person hasn't spoken and you're feeling a little lightheaded because you haven't taken a breath in 10 minutes?
 - I think it is pretty normal for people to get stuck in conversations about themselves. I don't know about you, but I like talking about me, my life, my relationships, the things I love, the things I hate, the things that get me excited, the things that make me upset and angry. If you give me the time, I can talk about myself for a while.
- But here's what's interesting. When we make it a habit to not listen to others because we're talking about ourselves all the time, other people make it a habit to not listen to us either. That's not good if you want to have friends. It's also not good if you have an important message you hope people hear.

DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Break for discussion. If you have more than ten students, split into groups so everyone can share. The starred questions are designed for high schoolers, so you may want to skip them if you're working only with middle schoolers.*
 - **You have 10 seconds – brag about something you've accomplished or that you really like about yourself.**
 - ☆ **How much time do you think the average person spends each day thinking about themselves versus thinking about other people? Do you think those numbers are also true for you?**

SO WHAT? *Why does it matter to God and to us?*

ACTIVITY | Stay Focused . . . or Not

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *This listening activity can either be done by splitting your whole group into pairs or by bringing two volunteers to the front to demonstrate. Either way, Partner #1 will share a story while Partner #2 listens (or not). Ask Partner #1 to think of a one-minute story they're excited to tell. When they've got it, put one minute on the clock and ask them to tell the story to Partner #2*

– but ask Partner #2 to do everything they can not to pay attention. They can check their phone, close their eyes, strike up a conversation with someone else in the room, or sing a song, for example. When the one minute is up, ask them to try again – but this time, ask Partner #2 to do everything they can to pay attention. Afterward, ask these questions:

- **Partner #1, after the first round, how did you feel about sharing your story?**
- **Partner #2, after the first round, what do you think would have happened if you had tried to tell Partner #1 a story after you had totally ignored theirs?**
- **Partner #1, how did you feel after the second round? If Partner #2 had wanted to tell you a story when you were done, how likely would you have been to listen?**
- We could come up with all sorts of reasons why we fail to listen well to others. But ultimately it usually comes down to the same problem: we don't listen well because we're too focused on ourselves. When we're focused on ourselves, we . . .
 - Talk more than we listen.
 - Don't ask questions or show curiosity.
 - Fail to consider other people's perspectives.
 - Try to take the spotlight.
- When we do that regularly, it makes people want to pay less attention to what we have to say.

DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Break for discussion. If you have more than ten students, split into groups so everyone can share. The starred questions are designed for high schoolers, so you may want to skip them if you're working only with middle schoolers.
 - **Do you think it's always selfish to enjoy having someone's attention, getting recognition, or talking about yourself? Why or why not?**
 - ★ **How do we know when our desire to be noticed or appreciated has gone beyond what's normal and become selfish?**

SCRIPTURE | Acts 16:16-34

- For the last few weeks, we've been talking about passing on the good news of Jesus to others. We've talked about how . . .
 - Jesus challenged us to tell everyone about the good news that he's alive and he can rescue us from sin and death.
 - We can share that good news with our lives by loving people with both our actions and our words.
 - We're called to share the good news with everyone – not just the people we want to share it with.
- We've been reading stories from the book of Acts, which is a book that tells the stories of some of the earliest followers of Jesus and how they passed on the good news all over the world.
- Paul and Silas are two of the more well-known people in Acts. They were missionary partners and worked together to share the gospel in places where no one had yet heard of it.
 - Paul and Silas were really good at passing on the good news. They had a huge impact everywhere they went.

- As we'll see in the story we're about to read, Paul and Silas knew they had an important message to share. They also knew that, if they wanted people to really hear what they had to say, they couldn't make themselves the center of attention.
- But this wasn't just a fun adventure Paul and Silas knew they could face persecution – even death – for telling others about Jesus.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read Acts 16:16–34.*
- This story really does have everything: demon possession, fortune telling, exorcism, an angry mob, beatings, imprisonment, dungeons, chains and shackles, earthquakes, freedom, redemption, and celebration! But there is one thing about this story that sticks out to me above everything else: humility.
- Some people think humility is thinking less of yourself or refusing to take a compliment. But that's not it at all. Humility is about not drawing unnecessary attention to yourself and drawing attention to others or God instead.
- Let me show you some of the ways I see Paul and Silas choosing humility instead of selfishness – and how their humility helped others hear the good news they had to share.
 - **IN JAIL:** Paul and Silas could have been selfish when they were thrown in jail. They could have run, fought, yelled, or been angry with God because of their situation. Instead, they chose to humbly trust God.
 - **IN WORSHIP:** Instead of focusing on their unfortunate situation, Paul and Silas chose to worship instead, putting the focus back on God.
 - **WITH THEIR MERCY:** When the jailer was afraid they had escaped, instead of looking out for their own interest, they humbly intervened to rescue him from himself, which put them in greater danger.
 - **WITH THEIR MESSAGE:** Whether Paul and Silas were speaking to huge crowds or just one jailer, they didn't make themselves the center of attention. They humbly pointed people to Jesus, the one who could save them.
- Paul and Silas could have focused on themselves and their own needs during this ordeal. They could have grumbled, complained, and wondered why God would have allowed this to happen to them. Instead, they kept their eyes focused on God, on the needs of others, and on their mission to share the good news of Jesus.
- Because of their humility, Paul and Silas not only saw a miracle happen, but they were able to pass on the good news to a man and his entire family!

DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Break for discussion. If you have more than ten students, split into groups so everyone can share. The starred questions are designed for high schoolers, so you may want to skip them if you're working only with middle schoolers.*
 - ★ **How would you define "humility"? How did Paul and Silas demonstrate humility?**
 - **What are some ways a lack of humility could prevent someone from passing on the good news of Jesus effectively?**

SCRIPTURE | I Corinthians 9:16–23

- Later in Scripture, Paul himself writes about what it means to him to pass on the good news with humility.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read I Corinthians 9:16–23.*
- Here’s what Paul says about passing on the good news:
 - He has nothing to brag about.
 - He didn’t care about money, fame, or even his own comfort.
 - He put himself under Jesus’ leadership.
 - No matter who Paul was with, he put them and their needs before his own.
- Everything Paul did was to pass on the good news in a way that put Jesus and the needs of others in the spotlight, instead of himself. Because Paul didn’t make his message all about himself, many people heard and believed the message Paul had to share.
- Humility is about putting God and others before ourselves. You can try to pass on the good news while being arrogant or self-centered, but if you really want to people to hear what you have to say, **pass on the good news with humility.**

NOW WHAT? *What does God want us to do about it?*

STORY | Talk about a time someone’s lack of humility prevented them from effectively talking about their faith.

- Like we saw in our earlier activity, it’s difficult to really hear what someone has to say when they’re too focused on themselves.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tell a story from your own life (or ask a volunteer or student to tell a story) about a time when someone’s lack of humility prevented them from effectively talking about their faith – that someone might even be you. You might talk about someone who was arrogant, or talked more about themselves than Jesus, or someone who failed to get to know the person they were talking to before trying to share the good news with them. Whichever you choose, be sure to explain how the person speaking was not practicing humility and why the person listening did not want to hear what they had to say.*
- Putting others first really does make a difference. It can mean the difference between someone feeling loved and accepted or feeling unimportant and invaluable. It means . . .
 - Making Jesus the hero of our stories instead of ourselves.
 - Being curious instead of assuming we know everything.
 - Asking more questions instead of always trying to give answers.
 - Talking *with* people instead of talking *at* them.
- If we want someone to really hear the good news of Jesus, then . . .
 - How we treat people matters.
 - How we listen to people matters.
 - How we love people matters.
 - How we pass on the good news matters.

PRAYER | Listening to God

- You know what’s interesting about how Paul and Silas? How they knew when to share the good news — and who they should share it with.
 - Sometimes God gave them clear directions about where to go and who to talk to.
 - Sometimes they didn’t have clear directions so they just tried to do the next right thing.
 - Sometimes the people they met were seemingly chance encounters.
 - But here’s what’s always true: Paul was constantly looking for opportunities to pass on the good news everywhere he went.
- I wonder how we could be like Paul in this way?
 - What if we started seeing our family, our classrooms, our sports teams, our lunch tables, our jobs, or even the aisles of the grocery store as places where we could humbly pass on our faith to others?
 - How would this change who we talk to, how we talk to them, and how we listen to them?
 - How could it change your life? And could it change others’ lives forever?
- If we want to find the answers to those questions, humility is the key. Like Paul, if we want to pass on the good news with humility, we have to start listening to God more closely.
- For the next few minutes, we’re going to practice listening to God by asking questions like these:
 - **How has my lack of humility kept me from passing on the good news in the past?**
 - **What’s one way I need to practice being more humble?**
 - **How can I be more aware about passing on the good news to others in my life?**
 - **Who is one person I can focus on this week, besides myself?**
 - **Who is someone who needs to hear the good news and how can I help?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Spend a few moments in prayer with some quiet music playing in the background. Before your teaching time, print and cut the handouts provided in your Week 4 folder. Place one under each seat, along with a pen. Encourage students to reflect on how they can practice humility. Challenge them to think about how humility and passing the good news go together.*
- You and I have had the opportunity to hear the greatest news ever — that Jesus is alive and he came to rescue us. And now we have the opportunity to pass that news onto others. This week and every week, I hope you will . . .
 - Pass on the good news with your whole life — not just with words.
 - Pass on the good news to unexpected people — even the people you struggle to love or accept.
 - Pass on the good news to your family by the way you love them.
 - And **pass on the good news with humility** — because it’s not about us and what we can do. It’s about Jesus and what he’s already done for us.

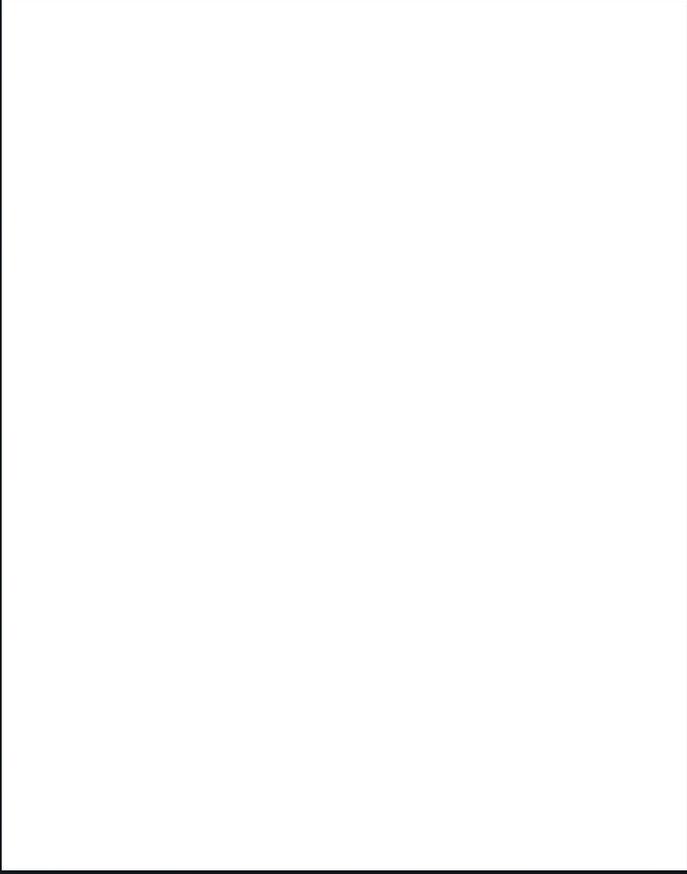
DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Break for discussion. If you have more than ten students, split into groups so everyone can share. The starred questions are designed for high schoolers, so you may want to skip them if you’re working only with middle schoolers.*

- Read I Corinthians 3:6-11. In this passage, what is Paul trying to help us understand about passing on the good news?
- If you follow Jesus, who are some of the people who helped you get to know him? How did those people each play different roles in passing on the good news to you?
- 🔄 If it's true that no one person can take all the credit for someone choosing to follow Jesus, how does that change the way you think about passing on the good news to others?
- This week, what's one way you need to practice more humility? And how do you think that will help you pass on the good news of Jesus more effectively?

RESPONSE | The Pass It On Challenge

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** We suggest using this series as a launching point for this quarter's Discipleship Activity, *The Pass It On Challenge*. You can find this resource in the discipleship section of your dashboard.



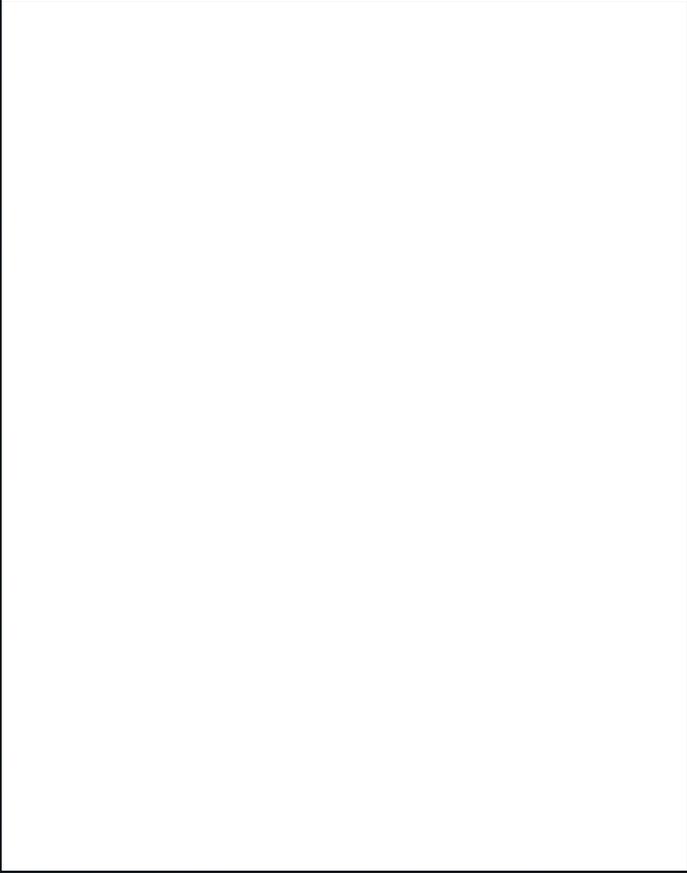
Who is one person I can focus on this week, besides myself?

Who is someone who needs to hear the good news and how can I help?

How can I practice being more humble?

How has my lack of humility kept me from passing on the good news?

How can I be more aware about passing on the good news to others in my life?



Who is one person I can focus on this week, besides myself?

Who is someone who needs to hear the good news and how can I help?

How can I practice being more humble?

How has my lack of humility kept me from passing on the good news?

How can I be more aware about passing on the good news to others in my life?





ONE-MINUTE SERMON SCRIPTS



ONE-MINUTE SERMONS

After you teach each week, we recommend **filming a video of yourself re-teaching your message in one minute or less**. Then post it on social media! We've written the beginnings of a script for you each week, and we've also filmed complete [One-Minute Sermon Videos](#) for you too, in partnership with [Rescue a Generation](#). Make your own or post ours — whatever you want!

WEEK 1

With social media, just about anyone can be an "influencer" with the right content, good timing, and a little bit of luck. Invent a new dance, share a funny take, catch the right moment on camera, and you could get millions of views. Some "influencers" mostly just use their platforms to get free stuff, but once in a while, you find someone who uses their platform to talk about things that actually matter. Obviously they didn't have social media back in Jesus' day, but in the Bible, the book of Acts is filled with stories about "influencers" who had important things to say. Like Tabitha. Listen to this. Tabitha died. Then God brought her back to life. And then Tabitha told everyone she could about what God had done. You probably haven't *literally* been raised from the dead like Tabitha, but if you know Jesus, your new life in Him is evidence of what God can do. **Our lives can pass on the good news.**

WEEK 2

Don't you hate it when you find out your friends have been hanging out without you? It's the worst. But even though we all hate being the person who got left out, be honest — you've done this to someone before, haven't you? You know what it's like to be excluded and you know what it's like to exclude too. This isn't just a you and me problem. It's a human problem. Even some early Christians found themselves excluding people in the name of Jesus! When the Jesus movement was first beginning, a lot of Jesus' followers thought only a certain group of people were allowed to become Christians. They even thought Scripture supported them and that, by excluding certain people, they were honoring God. God had to speak to Peter, one of Jesus' closest friends and disciples, in a dream in order to give them this message: the good news of Jesus isn't just for an exclusive group — we're called to **pass it on to unexpected people.**

WEEK 3

Families can be our best support systems, the most annoying people we've ever met, or both, depending on the day. There's probably no one you fight with more often than the people in your own family, right? And even if you love them, it's not always easy to show them love. There's a story in the Bible about a woman named Lydia. It doesn't get talked about much, but it's a story about how the good news of Jesus changed a whole family. When Lydia once heard the apostle Paul share the good news of Jesus, she was so moved by what she heard that she knew she needed to share it with the people who mattered most to her — her family. Like Lydia, you've heard about the love of Jesus. Maybe His love has even changed your life. So whether your family members know Jesus already or not, here's a question: how can you **pass on the good news to your family?**

WEEK 4

Have you ever had a secret that you had a little too much fun keeping (or not keeping)? Maybe it was a wild rumor you heard, or a funny story you couldn't wait to share, or a really terrible picture of your friend you wanted everyone to see. Or maybe it was just a nice, wholesome piece of good news! Whenever we have some secret knowledge other people want to hear, it's hard not to enjoy that moment of feeling powerful, in control, and the center of attention. That's extra true when the "secret" you have to share is literally life-changing. In the Bible, these two guys Paul and Silas were on a mission to share the good news of Jesus with the world. As a result, they gained a pretty big following. But instead of making themselves the center of attention, they simply pointed people toward Jesus. And just like Paul and Silas, Jesus calls us to **pass on the good news with humility** too.

MARKETING CHECKLIST



BEFORE THE SERIES

✓ TO DO

	Print your Series Promo Poster and Series Promo Cards and display them where families and volunteers can see them.
	Customize your Volunteer Hub and Family Hub web pages for this series.
	Customize and send the Family Email for this series.
	Send the Volunteer Email for Week 1 of this series. Then text your volunteers a link to the email.
	Review the suggested Social Media Posts and Captions for this series.
	Big news! (Pass it on!) We're starting a new series this week about sharing our faith – see you there! Post the Bumper Video on social media with this caption: Big news! (Pass it on!) We're starting a new series this week about sharing our faith – see you there!

AFTER WEEK 1

✓ TO DO

	Post the 1-Minute Sermon Video for Week 1 on social media with this caption: In case you missed it, this week we talked about Tabitha and how our lives can pass on the good news. Here's a recap!
	Post the Big Idea Graphic for Week 1 on social media and/or send with this caption: Remember, passing on the good news of Jesus shouldn't just be a one-time event. It should be part of our everyday lives, through both our actions and our words.
	Send the Volunteer Email for Week 2 of this series. Then text your volunteers a link to the email.

AFTER WEEK 2

✓ TO DO

	<p>Post the 1-Minute Sermon Video for Week 2 on social media with this caption:</p> <p>In case you missed it, this week we talked about Peter (and a vision involving animals falling out of the sky) and how we can pass on the good news to unexpected people. Here's a recap!</p>
	<p>Post the Big Idea Graphic for Week 2 on social media with this caption:</p> <p>If you've received the good news of Jesus, remember, it's not up to you to decide who's ready or worthy to hear about God's love. It's up to God.</p>
	<p>Send the Volunteer Email for Week 3 of this series. Then text your volunteers a link to the email.</p>

AFTER WEEK 3

✓ TO DO

	<p>Post the 1-Minute Sermon Video for Week 3 on social media with this caption:</p> <p>In case you missed it, this week we talked about how people like Lyda, Lois, and Eunice passed on their faith to the people closest to them – their families. Here's a recap!</p>
	<p>Post the Big Idea Graphic for Week 3 on social media with this caption:</p> <p>Remember, as you think about who God might be asking you to share the good news with, maybe look a little closer to home. Whether your family knows Jesus or not, you can pass on the good news to your family.</p>
	<p>Send the Volunteer Email for Week 4 of this series. Then text your volunteers a link to the email.</p>

AFTER WEEK 4

✓ TO DO

	<p>Post the 1-Minute Sermon Video for Week 4 on social media with this caption:</p> <p>This week, we talked about when Paul and Silas were miraculously freed from prison, and how they shared the good news of Jesus in the process. Here's a recap!</p>
	<p>Post the Big Idea Graphic for Week 4 on social media with this caption:</p> <p>Remember, we pass on the good news with humility – because it's not about us and what we can do. It's about Jesus and what he's already done for us.</p>
	<p>Get ready for the next series!</p>

Grow students

SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS & CAPTIONS



Need some help deciding what to post on social media before and during this series? Here's our suggestion: each week, share the media we've provided in your Graphics and Videos folder using the captions below.

BEFORE THE SERIES



BUMPER VIDEO

Big news! (Pass it on!) We're starting a new series this week about sharing our faith – see you there!

AFTER WEEK 1



1-MINUTE SERMON (WEEK 1)

In case you missed it, this week we talked about Tabitha and how our lives can pass on the good news. Here's a recap!

AFTER WEEK 2



1-MINUTE SERMON (WEEK 2)

In case you missed it, this week we talked about Peter (and a vision involving animals falling out of the sky) and how we can pass on the good news to unexpected people. Here's a recap!



BIG IDEA (WEEK 1)

Remember, passing on the good news of Jesus shouldn't just be a one-time event. It should be part of our everyday lives, through both our actions and our words.



BIG IDEA (WEEK 2)

If you've received the good news of Jesus, remember, it's not up to you to decide who's ready or worthy to hear about God's love. It's up to God.

AFTER WEEK 3



1-MINUTE SERMON (WEEK 3)

In case you missed it, this week we talked about how people like Lyda, Lois, and Eunice passed on their faith to the people closest to them – their families. Here's a recap!

AFTER WEEK 4



1-MINUTE SERMON (WEEK 4)

This week, we talked about when Paul and Silas were miraculously freed from prison, and how they shared the good news of Jesus in the process. Here's a recap!



BIG IDEA (WEEK 3)

Remember, as you think about who God might be asking you to share the good news with, maybe look a little closer to home. Whether your family knows Jesus or not, you can pass on the good news to your family.



BIG IDEA (WEEK 4)

Remember, we pass on the good news with humility – because it's not about us and what we can do. It's about Jesus and what he's already done for us.

What We're Teaching



ADD YOUR LOGO HERE

What We're Teaching



ADD YOUR LOGO HERE

What We're Teaching



ADD YOUR LOGO HERE

What We're Teaching



ADD YOUR LOGO HERE